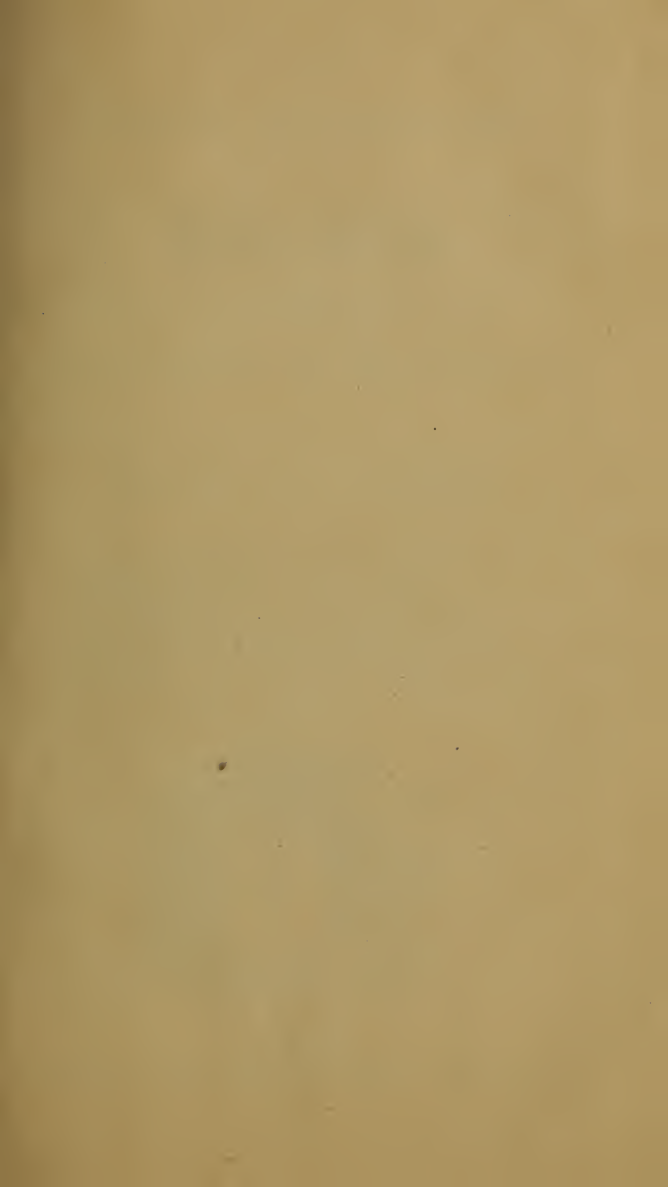


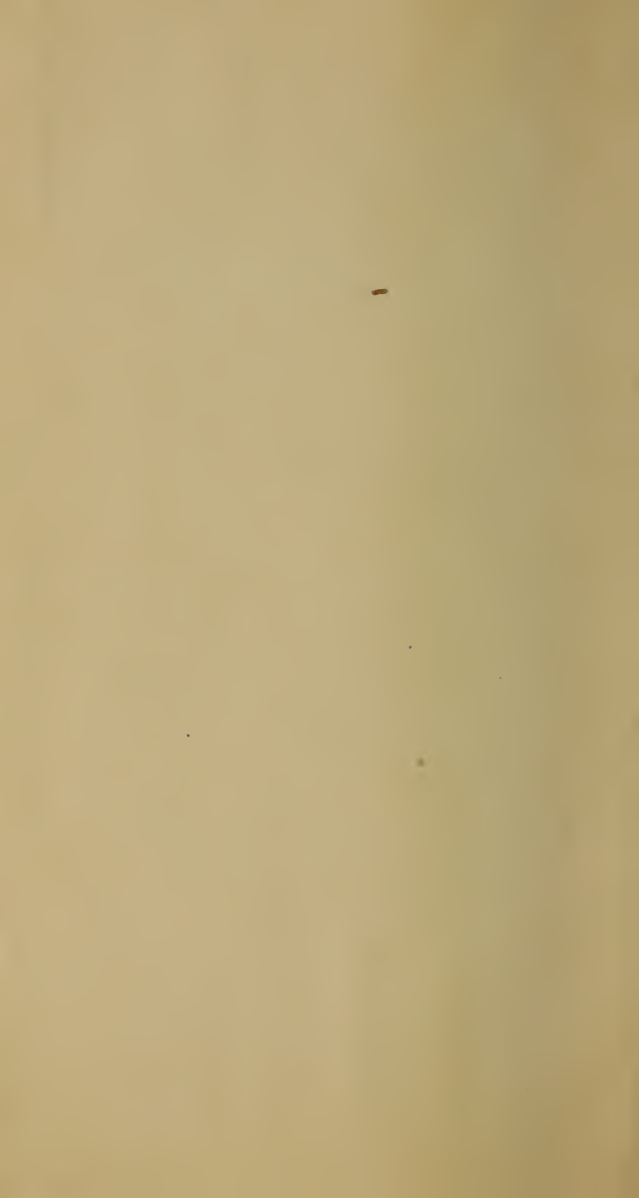
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THE
HISTORY AND ANTIQUITIES
OF

THORNE,

WITH
SOME ACCOUNT OF THE DRAINAGE
OF

HATFIELD CHASE.

“Such is the patriot’s boast, where’er we roam,
His first, best country, ever is at home.
And yet, perhaps, if countries we compare,
And estimate the blessings which they share,
Though patriots flatter, still shall wisdom find
An equal portion dealt to all mankind.”

GOLDSMITH.



THORNE:
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PREFACE.

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IN compiling this little work, endeavours have been used to collect all the interesting particulars extant relating to Thorne, from the works of others, from the few manuscript documents that exist, as well as from the kind communications of those friends who have been disposed to assist in the design. And as it is expected that the history of this town and neighbourhood will principally come into the hands of those whose connexion with, and local knowledge of the district, may be supposed to give them an interest in whatever relates to it: further preface or apology for the introduction of matter, which in the cool judgment of a stranger might appear unimportant, will be unnecessary.

A short sketch of the drainage of the level of Hatfield Chase has been introduced, and should the reader be desirous of obtaining more information relative to that important undertaking, Hunter's History and Topography of the Deanery of Doncaster will furnish many further and highly interesting particulars.

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THE
HISTORY AND ANTIQUITIES
OF
THORNE.

SECTION I.

THE STATE OF THE COUNTRY PREVIOUS TO
THE NORMAN CONQUEST.

It is the observation of a very judicious and learned antiquary, that “ If the origin of the more learned nations, Greeks and Romans, be uncertain, much more is that of the Western parts ; and if national antiquities be obscure, parochial, for sure, are more uncertain.” However, to commence a general account as early as can be asserted with safety :

The original inhabitants of the province in which the town of Thorne is at present situated, were the Brigantines, the most numerous and powerful of all the British tribes that possessed the island before the Roman conquest. Traces of their history are antecedent to the Christian era ; and when Julius Cæsar invaded this island, forty-five years before the birth of Christ, he describes them as occupying the northern districts, meaning the

whole of the extensive region now divided into the counties of Durham, York, Westmoreland, Cumberland, and Lancashire: their metropolis was Isurium Brigantium, which is now only an inconsiderable village, called Aldburgh, about half a mile distant from Boroughbridge. The Roman writers relate, that the Brigantines were the most numerous and powerful of the native tribes of Britain, inured to great hardships, and of a brave and warlike character. They resisted the Roman arms for a considerable period, and were only overpowered by the invincible conquerors of the then civilized world.

The Brigantines, situated towards the sea coast, made a vigorous and protracted resistance against their invaders, defending their towns with the most desperate valour; and it was not until after many bloody conflicts that they submitted to the power of the Roman arms. The proprætor Petilius Cerealis received their submission in the reign of Vespasian, A. D. 70. From that period, the Romans fixed their principal station at Eboracum, or York, from which central point their cohorts, stationed in every direction, retained the surrounding country in obedience.

It does not appear that the Romans have left, in the district to which this history is intended more particularly to relate, any works that might prove their having had a settlement or camp within its confines. The nearest of their works appears to have been a vicinal way, that passed through the old town of Pontefract, in a southerly direction, to

Darrington, Wentbridge, Smeaton, Campsall, and Hatfield.

The common road of the Romans out of the south into the north, was from Lindum (Lincoln), to Segelocum (Littleborough, upon the Trent), and from thence to Danum (Doncaster), where they kept a standing garrison of Crispinian horse. On the east and north east of their road, between the two last named towns, lay the borders of a great forest, the retreat of numerous hordes of the unsubjected Britains, who were continually making sallies out of their secluded holds, to intercept the provisions, and take and destroy the carriages, and kill the passengers and allies of the invaders of their country. These proceedings at length so enraged the Romans, that they resolved to destroy this almost impenetrable fastness of the natives. That they might do this more effectually, they marched with a great army, and encamped upon a heath or moor not far from Finningly; the remains of their camp are still visible between that place and Austerfield, "where it is probable," says A. de la Pryme, "that a great battle ensued, for hard by is a little town called Osterfield.* Now, as the latter part of the word is never used to be added to any other, but where there hath been a battle; so the former seems to tell us, what Ro-

* Dr. Miller, in his History of Doncaster, remarks, "It is said that a battle was fought here between the Romans and Britons, and that the village takes its name from it; but I have examined Tacitus, Camden, and Speed, and can find no account of such a battle. Perhaps the village takes its name from the Saxon Oiester (easterly) and Feldt (a field)."

man general it was who fought it, to wit, Ostorius, whom all the Roman historians assure us was in those parts. But who gained the victory is not so easily to be judged of, though no doubt it was the valiant Romans, who, beside the multitudes of Britains that they slew, drove the rest back into the great forest and wood, that covered all this low country. Whereupon the Romans, that they might destroy it and the enemy the easier, took opportunity of a strong south west wind, and set great fires therein, which taking hold of the fir trees, burnt like pitch, and consumed infinite numbers of them ; then, when the fire had done what mischief and execution it could, the Romans brought their army nearer, and, with whole legions of captive Britains, chopped and cut down most of the trees that were yet left standing, leaving only here and there some great ones untouched, as monuments of their fury, and unneedful of their labour, which being destitute of the support of the underwood, and of their neighbouring trees, were easily overthrown by the strong winds."

After the Romans had finally abandoned Britain, little is recorded in history of the state of affairs in this district, until the year 633, during the Saxon Heptarchy, when Penda, the pagan king of Mercia, joined with Cadwallon, or Ceadwalla, the British king of Wales, to destroy the Christians and Saxons. The king of Wales, according to the historian, was *pagano senior*, more cruel than a pagan, though a nominal Christian ; and yet more atrocious than

his ally, from the hatred he indulged against the people and religion of the Anglians. Edwin, the Saxon king of Deira, styled Edwin the Great, met them at Haytefield, a village three miles from Thorne, since corrupted to Hatfield, and in a most bloody battle fought on the heath or lings, October 12, 633, lost his crown and life, after a peaceable reign of seventeen years. The victory is reported to have been attended with greater cruelty than any in the monuments of history; for whilst Penda endeavoured to root out the Christians, and Cadwallon the Saxons, their fury was so great that it spared neither age nor sex. Offride*, Edwin's eldest son, was slain in this battle. The head of Edwin was buried in St. Gregory's porch, in his own church, at York, but his body in the monastery at Whitby.

The internal police which prevailed through the dominions of this prince was so vigilant, that it became proverbial to say, "That a woman with her new born infant, might walk from sea to sea without fear of insult." As in those days travelling was difficult and tedious, and no places existed for the entertainment of guests, it was an important and kind convenience to his people, that he caused stakes to be fixed in the highways where he had seen a clear spring, and brazen dishes were chained to them, to refresh the weary sojourner, from the fatigues which Edwin had himself experienced. In another reign these would have been placed only

* Rapin, B. III. p. 49.

to have been taken away ; but such was the dread of his inquiring justice, or such the general affection for his virtues, that no man misused them.

SECTION II.

THE ANCIENT STATE OF THORNE AND ITS ANTIQUITIES.

Few materials are extant that will throw light on the history of Thorne so early as the conquest ; however it appears from Doem's-day Book*, or General Survey of England, commenced in the 14th year of the reign of William the Conqueror, and finished six years afterwards (that is, between the years 1080 and 1086) that the village was then known by the name it bears at present, which appears to be derived from its marshy situation, and to correspond with Thorney, in Cambridgeshire, and Thorney, on the banks of the Thames, now Westminster, both of which resemble it in name as well as in situation ; although at the time of that survey, it is probable it contained only a mansion, the temporary residence of the lord of the manor or his feudal retainers, houses

* Dooms-day Book contains an exact survey of the lands, goods, and chattels of every person then living in England ; with what he used to pay in the Saxon times ; how much he had been taxed of late years since the conquest ; moreover what stock each had of horses, cattle, sheep, &c. ; how much ready money he had in his house ; what he owed and what was owing to him. All this was set down in great order, in a book called Dooms-day Book ; that is the book of the day of judgment ; apparently to denote, that the means of the English were sifted in that book as the actions of men will be at the last great day. This general register was laid up in the Exchequer, or King's Treasury, to be consulted on occasion.

for the socmen and a few cottages for the poorer villaines.

From this survey it appears, that William de Warren, as lord of the manor of Thorne, had four carucates* of land to be taxed, five socmen †, and eleven villaines ‡, with four ploughs.

Drogo de Beurerc had also two carucates of land, to be taxed §.

In the thirty-third year of the reign of Edward I. (1305) William Gumbaud had the manor of Thorne, and the honour of Albemarl.

In the first year of the reign of Edward III. (1327) John de Moubray had the manor; but in the twenty first year of the same reign, John de Warren was in the possession of t.

In the seventh year of the reign of Edward III, the abbot of Selby had a trial with John Count of Warren and other tenants of his manors of Wakefield and Thorne, and others, for eight hundred acres of land in Eastoffe||. (1332).

In the ninth year of the reign of Edward III, the

* A carucate, or plough land, is as much arable land as could be tilled in a year with one plough, and the beasts belonging thereto; having meadow, pasture, and houses for the householders thereto belonging; though it appears to have been different according to times and places. In the reign of Richard I. at 180 acres. By statute, under William III, a plough land is rated at £50 per annum, and may contain houses, inroads, mills, and pasture, &c. Ency. Brit. art Carucate.

† Socmen, or sokemen (socmanni), such tenants as held their lands and tenements in socage; but the tenants in ancient demesne seem most properly to be called socmans.

‡ Villain, was one who held lands in villenage, or on condition of rendering base services to his lord.

§ Bawdwen's Dooms-day Book, Vol. 1. 159.

|| Calendaria Rotulorum Patentium, p. 117.

king hath confirmed to Robert Browne, in fee, 30 acres of the crops of the manor of Thorne, in the county of York, granted to him by John de Warren, count of Surrey, for annual revenue of ten shillings.

In the tenth year of the reign of Edward III, the king hath confirmed to John of Stainforth, in fee, thirty-one acres and a half of the crops of corn in the manors of Thorne, and Hatfield, and granted by John of Warren, count of Surrey, for the annual revenue of ten shillings.

In the tenth year of the reign of Edward III, the king hath granted and confirmed to Richard of Thorne, three tenements, with ten acres, thirteen and eight acres of meadow, and four and a half acres of moor, and forty acres of corn land in Hatfield and Thorne, in the county of York, which John of Warren, count of Surrey, hath granted, &c. to be held by the said Richard and his heirs, for the sum of twenty eight shillings, nine pence, and one farthing.

The king hath granted and confirmed to John, son of Peter, of Stainforth, thirty-one acres and a half of corn land, of John of Warren, count of Surrey, in Thorne and Hatfield, which the said count hath granted, &c. to be held by the said John and his heirs, from thence, for the annual revenue of ten shillings and sixpence, and making a way for his carriage to the mill of the said count*.

In the fourteenth year of the reign of Edward III, John of Warren, count of Surrey, hath granted to John of Brusely, in fee, twelve acres of corn, of his

* Abbreviatio Rotulorum Oirginalium, Vol. II. 110.

corn land of Thorne, for the yearly revenue of three shillings, which the king hath confirmed*. (1339).

The above grants will shew the rate at which land was let at that period.

Hatfield and Thorne, with many others, from John, count of Surrey, for the abbot of Roupe, Appendix, 19 Edward III. (1344.)

William, earl of Warren, gave to the abbey of Roch, the tithe of eels taken at his fishery, in this territory. Burton's Monas. p. 323.

The following is a copy of the charter by which William, count of Warren, granted the tithe of eels to the above abbey.

William, count Warren, in his manors of Brademar, wishes safety : Know that I, of my own charity, have granted to God and to the church of the Holy Mary of Roupe, and to the monks there serving God, a tenth of the whole residue of my eels, of all my fisheries which are in the parishes of Hatfield, Thorne, and Fishlake, besides the full tithing of my eels which belong to the monks of Lewes, in pure and perpetual alms. Wherefore I command you that the aforesaid tenths be possessed by them yearly, without any delay at the season. And in testimony of which things, I send you these my letters patent. Farewell†.

The monks of St. Martin's priory at Richmond, had the third part of the tithes at Thorne. Burt. Mon. p. 274.

* Calendarum Rotulorum Patentium, p. 137.

† Dugdale's Mon. Ang. Vol. I. 837.

In order to elucidate the early history of Thorne as much as possible, the following short sketches of the lords of the manor are inserted.

WARREN, EARL OF SURREY.

Arms---Checky, O. and Az.

William de Warren, first earl of Surrey, and lord of the manor of Thorne, as mentioned in Domesday Book, was so created, it is said, by William Rufus*. He was earl Warren, in Normandy, and nearly related to the Conqueror, whom he therefore accompanied in his expedition into England; in which, as a joint adventurer, and for his signal services, he was, after the battle of Hastings, rewarded with divers considerable lordships in several counties, among which was the barony of Lewes, in Sussex, and the manors of Carletune and Benington, in com. Line.; together with so many other great possessions, that he seemed more like a partner in the spoils of England than a subject. He also married Gundred,† the Conqueror's daughter; with whom, Brooke says, he obtained all Chirkland, Broomfield, and Yale. He built the castle of Holt, and founded the priory of Lewes, in Sussex, where, at his death in 1089, he was interred in the chapter

* So Dugdale asserts, but R. Brooke, upon a very specious authority, says, that he was constituted earl by Will. Conq.

† She died in Childbed, on the 24th May 1085, at Castle Acre, in Norfolk, but was brought for interment to Lewes, where the lettered part of her monument (a fine black marble tablet) is still preserved, through the liberality and antiquarian zeal of Sir William Burrell, baronet.

house*. His issue, according to Dugdale, were two sons, William and Reginald; and two daughters, viz, Edith, married, first, to Girard de Gornay; and after, to Drew de Monceaux; and Gundred wife of Ernide de Colungis.

William, second earl Warren, and Surrey, having joined Robert de Belesme, earl of Arundel and Shrewsbury, in favour of Robert Curthose, against Henry I. forfeited his great English possessions, but was afterwards restored to them; and from that time he continued with zeal and fidelity to adhere to Henry I. He died in 1138, and was also buried at Lewes priory. His wife was Isabel, daughter to Hugh, earl of Vermandois, (widow of Robert earl of Mellent) by whom he had three sons; viz, William, his successor; Reginald, lord of Wirmgay; and Ralph; also two daughters, namely, Gundred, married to Roger, earl of Warwick; and Adela, to Henry, son of David king of Scots.

William, third earl, married Adela, daughter of Robert, the turbulent earl of Belesme†. He was one of the most strenuous adherents that king Stephen had, in the many perils and dangers which he experienced; and at the memorable battle of Lewes ‡.

* Under a monumental jingle of Monkish rhyme, recited by Dugdale, but which the muse of Sternhold and Hopkins only could, in translation, do justice to the gothic ingenuity of these chiming hemistichs, this priory was the burial place of the family, as the castle of Lewes was their favourite residence; though at Castle Acre, in Norfolk, now in ruins; and at Coningsburgh and Sandal, in Yorkshire, they likewise had noble castles.

† In York's Union of Honour it is stated, that she was the daughter of William Talvace, earl of Ponthieu.

‡ This appears to be a mistake, as the battle of Lewes was not fought until the year 1262.

was one of the chief leaders in the royal army. But some of the king's troops having treacherously joined the enemy, this earl, with divers other officers of rank, fled, though the king continued to perform the part of a hero, and was only taken prisoner, after his sword and battle axe were broken, in dealing destruction to his assailants.

In the year 1147, this earl, in the sanguinary spirit of crusade, which then pervaded the Christian world, accompanied Lewis, king of France, in his expedition against the Saracens, an expedition wherein the consecrated banners of the Christians fell into the hands of the infidels. But whether the earl of Surrey was slain in the general defeat of the holy army, or was taken prisoner, and died in captivity, seems uncertain. York says, he had issue, William, Patrick, and Philip, who died young, and a daughter, Isabel, who married, first, William de Blois ; and secondly, Hameline Plantagenet, who in her right held the earldom successively.

BLOIS, EARL OF SURREY.

Arms---G, three Pallets varyy, on a Chief, O, an Eagle displayed, G. membered, Az.

William de Blois was earl of Moreton, in Normandy, and a natural son of king Stephen. Upon the reconciliation of his father and duke Henry (son of Maud, the empress), he had granted to him the lordship of Norwich, all the honour of Pevensey, with divers other considerable inheritances ; and having married Isabel, the daughter and heir (as before mentioned) of William, earl of Warren and

Surrey, he, in her right, enjoyed those earldoms. This earl William was of a gentle unambitious disposition, which procured him, from Henry II. more favour than suspicion; so that in the situation of a private nobleman, he was happier than if he had been possessed of an enterprising spirit, and succeeded to the disputed crown. Having attended Henry II. to the siege of Thoulouse, he died S. P. and was buried in that city, anno 1159. The king for awhile retained these earldoms; but in 1163,

PLANTAGENET EARL OF SURREY,

Arms---Semee of France and a Border of England, also
Checky O. and Az. (Warren.)

Hameline Plantagenet*. a natural son of Geffery earl of Anjou, and base brother to Henry II., having married Isabel, relict of the late earl, had her honours; and the 12th of Henry II. certified his knight's fees to be sixty. He survived his countess four years, and for that time was tenant of her in-

* This seems to have been at first no more than one of the soubriquets, or nicknames, then so common; whereof, according to Skinner and Buck, the first that was so called was Fulk Martel, earl of Anjou, in the tenth century. That nobleman is said to have contrived the murder of his nephew, Drogo, earl of Brittany, in order to succeed to that earldom; in atonement for which murder, his confessor sent him to Jerusalem, attended only by two servants; one of whom was to lead him by a halter to the holy sepulchre, the other to strip and whip him there like a common malefactor. Broom, in French, genet in Latin, genista, being the only good whipping shrub in Palestine; the noble criminal was smartly disciplined with it; and, from the instrument of his chastisement, called Plantagenista, plantagenet, or broom plant, nunc vulgo, birch rob. Other derivations are, however, also given for this celebrated surname. But be the true origin of the name what it may, this Hameline, not over anxious to retain any memorial of his father's family, bore the arms and surname of Warren only, after his marriage with the countess Isabel. Cat. of Hon. per R. Brooke.

heritance by the courtesy of England. After which he closed a long and honourable life, in the year 1202, and was buried with his wife's ancestors in Lewes priory, leaving a son and heir.

William, next earl Warren and Surrey, and sixth Lord of Lewes. This earl for a considerable time adhered to king John against the insurgent barons ; and was one of the four nobles who were sworn vouchers for his performance of the degrading conditions dictated to him by Pandulph, the Pope's legate, in 1213 : but at last, disgusted with the perfidy and despotism of that mean prince, he joined Lewis, the French king's son, who was invited over to assume the forfeited sovereignty of the nation. However, on the death of king John, he was induced to desert the French interest, in favour of young Henry, his son ; who some months before had been crowned at Gloucester. This prince was weak, mean, and pusillanimous ; dissembling and imprudent, like his father ; which rendered the counsels of men of honour and patriotism alike nugatory ; so that a confederacy among the nobles (with whom the earl of Surrey joined) was formed, to oblige him to subscribe to certain regulations, which, if they had been observed by

* William earl Warren, lord of Stamford, co. Linc. temp. king John, standing upon the castle walls, saw two bulls fighting, in the castle meadow, till all the butchers' dogs pursued one of the bulls (maddened with noise and multitude) quite through the town. This sight so pleased the earl, that he gave the castle meadows, where first the bulls began to fight for a common to the butchers of the town, after the grass was mown, on condition that they should find a mad bull the day six weeks before Christmas day, for the continuance of that cruel sport for ever.

the king, would have been as beneficial to himself as to his subjects. This nobleman died in the 24th year of the reign of Henry III, having been twice married. His first wife was Maud, daughter of the earl of Arundel, who died S. P.; his second was also named Maud, the daughter of William Marshal, the elder, earl of Pembroke, and Widow of Hugh Bigot, earl of Norfolk*; by whom he had a daughter, Isabel, who married Hugh, earl of Arundel, and a son, John, then five years old; which

John, the seventh earl, was a long time under ward, in order to benefit Peter de Savoy, the queen's uncle, who had the custody of his lands during that period. This nobleman adhered to king Henry in all those exactions and encroachments, which at last roused the people to defend their rights and property with the sword. He strenuously supported the royal side at the battle of Lewes. John was of a temper remarkably impetuous and overbearing; as was strongly evinced by his vehement attack in Westminster Hall, upon Alan le Zouche, the chief justice, and Roger, his son; both of whom, on some conceit of displeasure, he then most sorely wounded. Afterwards, when Edward I. issued the first writs of quo warranto, and the earl of Surrey was questioned as to the title to his possessions, he produced a rusty sword, and said, "That was his warranty for all he possessed; by that old family servant, his ancestors had won their land as well as the conqueror himself; and

* Brooke mentions another daughter, Margaret, who married the lord Percy; but Dugdale only notices Isabel.

with the same, their undegenerate descendant was determined to maintain them." He married Alice, daughter of Hugh le Brun, and half sister, by the mother, to Henry III. ; which lady brought him two daughters, Eleanor and Isabel, whereof the former married, first, Henry Lord Percy, and afterwards a Scotch earl ; and the latter became the wife of John Baliol, king of Scotland. Likewise a son, William, a promising young man, who was slain in his father's lifetime, at a tournament at Croydon, in the twentieth year of his age ; leaving by Joane his wife, daughter of Robert de Vere, earl of Oxford, a posthumous son, John, of whom hereafter.

This great and boisterous nobleman, who possessed his paternal honours sixty-five years, to which was added the earldom of Sussex, conferred upon him by Henry III, died circ. an. 1304, aged seventy, and was succeeded by

John, his grandson, before mentioned, who was one of those 267 noble persons that were knighted with prince Edward, afterwards Edward II, and was one of the peers who so justly resented that monarch's partiality for Piers Gaveston ; though afterwards he became one of those evil counsellors that supported the execrable meanness of Edward II. ; and sanctioned the execution of the brave, noble-minded, and accomplished earl of Lancaster, with his patriotic confederates, at Pontefract.

Indeed, after vice and folly had rendered Edward equally odious and contemptible to the rest of his subjects, this nobleman still continued his adherence.

Yet he acted so prudently, that he preserved both his life and his lands, in the midst of the arbitrary forfeitures and proscriptions which attended the deposition of that wretched and unhappy monarch. He even was one of the governors appointed for Edward III., during his minority; and having supported that prince against Mortimer, he ever after stood high in the royal favour.

The earl of Surrey and Sussex having, in the lifetime of his first countess, Joan, daughter of the earl of Barre, publicly kept Maud de Nereford, a lady of good family in Norfolk, was compelled by the archbishop of Canterbury to break off all connexion with her; but, nevertheless, though publicly convicted of adultery and perjury, he obtained a divorce from the countess, on the ground of a pre-contract to Maud; yet it does not appear that he ever married that lady. He is said to have had a second wife, Isabella de Holland *: which, whether the fact or not, his nuptial bed proved barren, while his illicit connexion was productive of male and female progeny †. He died in 1347; and Alice,

* Dugdale's Baronage, Vol. I. p. 81-2.

† From this issue the Warrens of Poynton in Cheshire, are considered to be descended. Ralph Brooke, however derives them from a second marriage of John, seventh earl of Surrey, with Joane, daughter of William lord Mowbray. A prolix and specious work, touching the true descent of these Warrens, is published, called "Watson's History of the Earls of Surrey," in 2 vols. 4 to. Warrington: printed by William Eyres, 1782. These volumes are ornamented with a variety of prints of their ancient castles and seals, with a portrait of the compiler, Dr. Watson, who was a very learned antiquarian, and wrote "the History and Antiquities of Halifax;" and also some papers in the Archæologia. The object of the above work was to prove the late Sir George Warren, of Poynton, in Cheshire entitled to the ancient earldom of Surrey.

his sister, became his heir in blood, who married Edmund Fitz-Alan, earl of Arundel.

FITZ-ALAN, EARL OF SURREY.

Arms---Gules, a Lion rampant. or, armed and langued, Azure.

The male line of the house of Warren being extinct in the person of the last earl,

Richard, son and heir of Edmund Fitz-Alan, earl of Arundel, and the said Alice de Warren, his wife, either by favour of king Edward, or suit at law, became lord of Lewes, and earl of Surrey; as did

Richard Fitz-Alan, earl of Arundel, his son and heir; who was afterwards executed, and fell a martyr in the cause of the people, in 1397, (21st Richard II.)

HOLLAND, DUKE OF SURREY.

Thomas Holland, son and heir of Thomas, earl of Kent, by Alice, sister of Richard Fitz-Alan, earl of Arundel, &c., was, by Richard II. anno 21 of his reign, created duke of Surrey; but in the 1st of Henry IV. he forfeited both his life and his honours; whereupon

Thomas Fitz-Alan, eldest son and heir of the last earl Richard, was restored in blood, and invested with all his hereditary honours and possessions; but dying S. P. 3d of Henry V., his three sisters became his co-heirs; of whom, Elizabeth married John Moubray, duke of Norfolk.

(MOUBRAY, EARL OF SURREY.)

Arms---Gules, a lion rampant, argent.

John de Moubray, son and heir of the said duke, was created earl of Surrey and Warren, by Henry

VI.* in the lifetime of his father ; and at his decease, he became duke of Norfolk. He died anno 1475, leaving an only daughter and heir, Ann, contracted in marriage to

Richard Plantagenet, second son of Edward IV., who thereupon was created duke of Norfolk, and earl Surrey and Warren †. He was murdered, with his brother, Edward V. ‡ in the tower ; and thus, according to the above statement, the manor devolved to the crown.

But the possessors of the manor, after the male line of the Warrens of Coningsborough, became extinct, in 1347, appear to be more correctly traced in Hunter's History of the Deanery of Doncaster, Vol. I. p. 110 ; his account (abridged) is as follows : After the decease of John de Warren, in 1347, his manors north of the Trent came to the crown, and were settled on Edmund Langley, a younger son of the king's, then not more than six years of age, and his mother, queen Philippa, was allowed to receive the profits, for the education of this and her younger children. Edmund married, first, one of the daughters of Peter, the cruel, king of Castile and Leon, and afterwards, a daughter of Thomas Holland, earl of Kent ; she outlived the duke, and after his decease, married three husbands in succession. Richard, a second son and issue of Edmund's marriage with the princess of Castile, after the death

* Rot. Chart. ab. 27th usq. 39th Hen. VI. n. 33.

† Rot. Chart. 15th to 22d Edward IV. no 13.

‡ Vide Banks's Dormant and Extinct Baronage of England, Vol. III. p. 687-694.

of his elder brother, Edward, succeeded to these estates. He married, first, Anne Mortimer, and afterwards, Maud Clifford. Richard, duke of York, the issue of the first marriage, succeeded to the manors in 1446. He married Cecily Nevil, a daughter of the earl of Westmoreland; some of their offspring were born at Hatfield. The duke was killed at the battle of Wakefield; and his son, the earl of March, after Richard's death, fought the battle of Towton, in which the fortunes of the house of York prevailed, and this earl became seated on the throne, as Edward IV.; and from that time the manor of Thorne was held by the succeeding kings of England, until sold by Charles I. to Cornelius Vermuyden. Vermuyden afterwards sold part of his purchase to Sir James Catts; and he and Catts afterwards sold the manors of Hatfield, Thorne, Fishlake, Stainford, and Dowesthorpe, to John Gibbons.

The manorial rights and royalty of the whole chase were purchased of Gibbons, by Sir Arthur Ingram; his descendant, Charles, the ninth and last viscount Irwin, bequeathed the manors to Isabella lady Beauchamp; in pursuance of which they are all now the property of the most noble Isabella dowager marchioness of Hertford, the above lady Beauchamp.

The value of the manor of Thorne at the time of the grant to Sir Cornelius Vermuyden, may be seen from the following extract.

And also, all that our manor of Thorne, at Thorne,

in the said county of York, with its rights, members, and appurtenances universal ; and all lands, tenements, rents, and hereditaments whatsoever, in the said county, called or known by the name of the manor of Thorne ; and all those our rents of assize of free tenants there, at Lady-day and Michaelmas, payable yearly by a particular thereof, amounting to twenty-two pounds, nine shillings, and sevenpence yearly ; and also all those our rents of service tenants there, and rents for thirty-two binders at bonds, and nine sticks of . . . payable at Lady-day only, by a particular thereof, amounting to four pounds five shillings one penny and a farthing ; and also all those our rents issuing or reserved of or for divers parcels of land of our waste and moors, with one fishgate, at Fishgarth, in Sterker, at Sterkes, within the said manor of Thorne, by a particular thereof, amounting to six pounds nine shillings and three-pence half-penny, by the year ; and also all those new rents issuing or reserved of or for sundry parcels of land of our waste there, in the tenures of sundry persons, as they lie in sundry places and fields of the town of Thorne aforesaid, by a particular thereof, amounting to seven shillings and ninepence three farthings per annum ; and also all those other our new rents issuing or reserved of or for divers other lands, parcel of our lands of our waste there, in the tenures of sundry persons, as they lie in divers places and fields of the said town, by a particular thereof, amounting to one and twenty pence halfpenny per annum ; and also all that our new

rent of four-pence per annum, issuing or reserving of or for sundry parcels of land there ; and also all that our new rent of one penny a year, issuing out of certain other lands there ; and also all those our new rents of one halfpenny farthing a year issuing out of two parcels of land there, one now or late in the tenure of John Heyton, at one half penny a year ; and the other now or late in the tenure of Thomas Reder, at one farthing a year ; and also all that our new rent of one halfpenny and one farthing a year, issuing out of one parcel of land there ; and also all that custom of four pence a year for pennage of hogs of the tenants there, payable at Martinmas only ; and also all our customs of the same tenants, for twenty seven balls of lake, payable at Christmas only, by a particular thereof, amounting to eighteen shillings a year ; and also all our court there, with the appurtenances, by a particular thereof, mentioned to be of the yearly rent of four shillings ; and also all that our bakehouse within the said manor of Thorne, by particular thereof mentioned, to be of the yearly rent or value of six shillings and eightpence ; and also all that our messuage or chamber, called the *King's Chamber*, there, by a particular thereof mentioned to be of the yearly value or rent of three shillings ; and also all that our stable there, now or late in the tenure or occupation of John Willner, or his assigns ; and also all that our chamber over the *Outward Gate* there, by a particular thereof mentioned to be of the yearly rent or value of twelve pence ; and also all that our

fishery of Sandraught, in the water of Idle, at Joile, within the said manor of Thorne, now or late in the tenure or occupation of John Green, or his assigns, by a particular thereof mentioned to be of the yearly value or rent of five shillings; and also all that our fishery of Braithmere, at Thurmere, at Countsmere, within the demesne of Hatfield and Thorne, together with old and young swans there, and the profits arising; and all other profits, commodities, advantages, and emoluments belonging to the said fishery, or anywise relating thereof, now or late in the tenure or occupation of Edmund, earl of Mulgrave, or his assigns, by a particular thereof mentioned to be of the yearly rent or value of thirteen pounds eight shillings and four pence; and also all and singular perquisites and profits of the court of our said manor of Thorne, and from time to time, happening or arising, by a particular thereof, of one year with another, valued at six pounds one shilling and eleven pence half-penny yearly.

From the notice in the grant of the king's chamber, and the chamber over the outer gate, the reader will, no doubt, be desirous to know what part of the town may be termed the royal, or court end of it. In an old document, by which the rent to the lord of the manor was collected, it appears, that "Gate House" was situated in Stone Gate, not far from the church, the street most probably deriving its name from that circumstance. This Gate House appears to have been an entrance to the Hall. The Hall Garth is a parcel of ground which extends the

whole length of Jacob Lane, and comprises part of the land now occupied with buildings and gardens, between that lane and the Church Lane.

The following curious entry, extracted from a rental made in 1683, fifty-five years after Cornelius Vermuyden purchased the manor of king Charles, will shew the situation of the Hall and Chambers.

John Darling holds part of a capital messuage in Stonegate, layte Wormleys, Smiths, Probeys, and Sympsons, viz. from the north part of the Hall, and Chambers over it, to the south part of the said messuage, with a garding adjoining, part of tyth layth balke, and a barne of five bayes next the field, with ground and foldstead thereto belonging, and one turf house on the west side of the street, with a well and an orchard there, next the grounds of Seth Sothell

In reference to the above property, and the family of Wormley, it appears John de Wormley was foreman on a jury at Hatfield, in 1340. This family claimed descent from Sir Adam de Newmarch ; and in 47 and 48 Henry III. it is recorded, that the manor of Thorne was seized into the king's hands, with others that had belonged to the baron Newmarch, who was heir of William Fitz-Raven ; this would be about the year 1263, and it is not improbable that the first hall, from which the Hall Garth took its name, was built by this family.

The inestimable writer, Leland, has left us the following particulars, which will throw some light on the ancient state of the country. He collected

his antiquities in the twenty-fifth, or, as others assert, in the thirty-fifth year of the reign of Henry the VIII. that is in the year 1534, or according to the latter date, 1544; he says,

“ From Doncaster to Heathfield, by champayn sandy ground a five miles; the quarters about Heathfeld be forest ground, and though wood be scars there, yet there is great plentie of red deere that haunt the fennes and the great mores thereabout, as to Axholm warde and Thurne* village. From Heathfeld to Thurne village, two miles passing over an arm of the Dune.

“ By the chyrch garth of Thurne is a praty pile or castelet, well diked, now used for a prison for offenders in the forestes, but some tyme longging to the Mulbrays as Thurne did. The ground al about Thurne is other playn, more, or fenne. From Thurne, by water, to the great lake caulled the Mere, almost a mile over, a mile or more. This mere is full of good fisch and foule. From thence three miles in a small gut or lode (which, he says) was named the Brier to Wrangton Cote, where I came on land in the isle of Axholme about a mile: so that from Wrangton there the water is caulled Idille; yet it is the same water that Bryer ys (Brier is). The fenny part of Axholm bereth much galle, a low frutex, swete in burning.

“ There is also a praty wood at Croole, a lordship, a late longging to Selleby monasterie.”†

* Thorne, also spelt Torne in Dooms-day Book.

† Leland's Itinerary, Vol. I. p. 38 to 40.

PEEL HILL.

The castle mentioned by Leland is at present nearly obliterated, no traces of it remaining, except the foundations on the top of the hill on which it stood ; smile not, reader, at the appellation ; many travellers have passed through Thorne without noticing that there is a *hill*, situated in the immediate neighbourhood of the town ; but although the inhabitants cannot boast of

The windy summits, wild and high,
Roughly rushing on the sky,

A little hill may nevertheless be worthy the attention of the curious. It does not appear that there is any certain account of the time at which the castle was erected ; although it is probable it was built at a very early period, perhaps soon after the conquest. John de Mowbray had the manor of Thorne in 1327, and, as the before mentioned author (Leland) states it to have been “ sum tyme longging to the Mulbrays, as Thurne did,” we may infer, from the great exactness of his accounts, that, although he could gather the name of its possessors, he was not informed of the time of its erection ; that circumstance, most probably, then was not generally known. The time of its demolition is equally envelopped in obscurity ; tradition does not even lay the charge to Oliver Cromwell, the reputed destroyer of many a fine piece of architecture ; it is equally uncertain, whether it was gradually dilapidated by the ravages of time, or was pulled down by some mercenary hand for the sake of the mate-

rials, although the latter appears the most probable, the stone of which it was constructed having been generally removed, or buried in the moat below.

About sixty years ago the ground was in the possession of Mordecai Cutts, Esq., who kept it in pasture for his horses ; some years after, it came into the occupation of Thomas Berriman, Esq., who deepened the moat on the west side, and stocked it with fish ; he also planted a colony of rabbits on the hill, which very much spoiled the appearance of the grounds, by burrowing. Soon after the moat was deepened, a large portion of the hill slid down into it, which circumstance caused a good deal of sensation in the town at the time. The last named occupant had a seat that turned on a pivot, fixed on the top of the hill, from which there is a very extensive prospect over the surrounding country. Tradition reports the centre of the hill to be hollow, or that it contains a dungeon or cell, to which there was originally a door on the west side, long since buried by the rubbish falling from the top.

The place now bears the name of " Peel Hill," and is the property of the Marchioness of Hertford, and was a few years ago occupied by John Benson, Esq., by whom it was partly encircled with a high wall. He also bared the foundations of the castle, the top of them was found to be from four to five feet thick, and composed of rounded stones and cement. The diameter of the summit of the hill is twenty-six yards, and the base is about twice that

extent. The earth of which it was formed was taken out of the ditch, and the top of the hill raised about eight yards above the adjacent grounds. The present occupant is William Snow, a market gardener. It is exceedingly to be regretted, that the grassy turf with which the hill and grounds were covered has been broken up, the hill considerably lowered, and planted with gooseberry shrubs, part of the foundations of the castle demolished, and the whole rendered as distressing to the lover of antiquity as it possibly can be made. In turning up the turf and lowering the mound, the present tenant has found a few iron arrow heads, a piece of stained glass, "such (he says) as they put in church windows," and several small brass coins, all of which were sold to a gentleman who accidentally visited the garden soon after they were dug up, except one small coin, supposed to be Dutch, in good preservation. This piece is the fac simile, on the obverse side, of one mentioned by Peck, in his History of Bawtry and Thorne, page 14, and of which he has given an engraving. He states the one he notices to have been found on digging the foundation for a bridge over the river Idle at Bawtry.*

* "When the workmen were digging the foundation, it was discovered, that at some distant period, the bed of the river, at that place, had been covered with wood and gravel, as there were piles of oak found five and six feet driven into the ground, upon them were placed beams of oak of great thickness, with other cross pieces of wood, over them were laid a quantity of gravel; by which means a secure foundation had been obtained. On digging still deeper, was found a great many coins (an engraving of one is here inserted) daggers, spurs, bridle bits,

It is very difficult at present to form a correct idea of the ground plan of the castle; but by the gardener's description, it appears to have had three large buttresses or outworks, pointing north-east, west, and south-east, of which the remains of two are standing above ground; the other parts of the wall, although a difficult task, from the hardness of the cement, have been removed low enough to allow the soil to be dug over with the spade, and in doing this the hill has been lowered about two yards.

"The praty pile or castelet, well diked," as Leland states, "now used for a prison for offenders in the forestes," appears, by his inserting the word "now," to have had aforetime different inmates, when

Knight, and page, and household squire,
Loiter'd through the lofty hall,
Or crowded round the ample fire:
The stag hounds, weary with the chace,
Lay stretch'd upon the rushy floor,
And urg'd, in dreams, the forest chace,
On HATFIELD heath, or LINDHOLME moor.

Lay of Last Minstrel.

The following extract from the Black Book of the Forests, of a swanimote* and court held at

horse shoes, &c.; from which we may infer there had been a ford there at an early period."

On the margin of the last named coin is

	GOTES : SEGEN, MACHT, RECH }	
Obverse	HANNS KRAV WINCKELIN NVR }	
Obverse	The same	} found on the
Reverse	HEVT-RODT, NORGEN, TODTT }	
		Peel Hill.

Two other pieces similar to these have been found in the town, and one or two Roman coins.

* Swanimote, or swainmote, a court touching matters of the forest, kept by the charter of the forest thrice in every year, before the verderers, as judges.

Hatfield, in the 30th year of the reign of Henry VIII.* will bring the reader acquainted with some of these offenders in the forests, who were thus kept in prison.

KEEPER OF BRODHOLME.

First, he saith that one Richard Emson and others, servants to——Sheffield, about six years past, did kill three deer in Ingles that is to say, one hind and two hind calves, and were punished for the same.

KEEPER OF WROOT.

Item, he saith that he did find three deer four several times slain of Miles Wynn, ground bailiff of Armthorp; which he thinks, was killed by the said Miles Wynn, or by his servants, which was after Christmas last.

Item, he saith that one William Garland, of Haxey, did convey one hind calf from the king his grounds, four years since, and not punished.

KEEPER OF CLONE.

Item, he saith that one stag was killed in Fishlake, in winter last but by whom he knoweth not,

KEEPER OF WRENGELS.

Item, he saith that one Richard Haywood, of Sykehouse, two years since did kill one stag with his crossbow, and not punished.

This court is as incident to a forest, as a court of pie powder to a fair.

Its jurisdiction is to enquire into the grievances and oppressions committed by the officers of the forest, and to receive and try presentments certified from the court of attachments, against offences in vert and venison.---REES.

* 5 June, 1538.

Item, he saith that the Township of Rocliffe, Arymin, Howke, Gowle, and Holden did kill game in the Comocon time, xxxti. deer or thereabout.

Veredem Jurat

VILLAT (VILLAGE) DE FISHLAKE.

First, they say, that the middle dike of Fishlake goeth out of the right course, for as they think, it should run betwixt the honour of Pontefract, and the Lordship of Hadeheld.

Item, they say that there is one fishgarth at Torn brig, which doth stop the water and by occasion thereof it drowneth all the common, which fishgarth is now in the tenure and holding of Sir William Dauncey, knight.

VILLAT DE HATFELD.

Item, they say that there is a close called Tudworth Green, which is inclosed by Marster Hastings, that of right should be common, according to the old custom of the chase.

Item, they say, that, there is one water sewer betwixt Moss wood, and Crowle wood, that is stopped, which drowned all the king his pastures.

VILLAT DE THORNE.

Item, they say that the tenants of Crowle do grave (turves) upon the king his ground at one place called Ingles more, and in sundry places were they or any of them have no authority contrary to the ancient custom.

VILLAT DE DOWESTHORPE.

Item, all the whole body with the inhabitants of every township sayeth, that this lordship is drowned

in effect, by occasion of one fishgarth, at Torne brig, which stoppeth the water to the destruction of the king his game and common,

VILLAT DE STAINFORD.

Item, they say that the tenants of Hepworth and Belton doth grave the hills in the Wroo bank, by the Torne bank, whereas the kings deer should have the peaceable passage.

MEERE MEN.

Item, they say that one Master Plumpton, doth keep, the king his swan, called a cobbe, in several grounds, and hath so continued this two years by paste; and the last year his fellow and he had five signetts, and this year seven, which the king his highness or any other his graces officers had or hath no profit nor advantage thereby.

Item, the said Meres Men (otherwise called Swanniers) say that one William Wood, of Everton, hath marked one swan hen of the kings with his own mark.*

The following ordinances made in a swainmote court of the manor of Hatfield, will give the reader some idea of the attention that was paid to preserve these birds.

I That every person having swans shall begin yearly to mark or cause to be marked, the same on Monday next after Trinity Sunday, and no persons afore. But after as the company may, so that the master of the king's game of swans or his deputy

* Examinat. et Concordat. cum original. per Car. S. Ellis, prima Cleric. præ honorabil. Georg. Rose, Custod. Recordorum.

be there present. And if any person or persons take upon him or them in marking to the contrary, to forfeit to the king ten pounds.

2. Item, it is ordained that no person or persons, being swanherds, nor others, shall begin a marking without the master of the king's game of swans, or his deputy, be there present, without four or five of the company of swanherds, upon pain to forfeit to the king ten pounds.

3. Item, it is ordained, that no person take up any cygnet or cygnets unmarked, nor make no sale of them, but if the king's swanherd or deputy, with four other swanherds next adjoining, be present, or have knowledge of the same ; upon pain to forfeit to the king ten pounds.

4. Item, that the swanherd of the duchy of Lancaster, within the counties of York, Lincoln, &c. nor within the liberties and franchises of the same, nor other for him nor by him, shall make sale, nor take up no wares, nor mark them, within the said duchy, without the king's swanherd or his deputy be there present, upon pain to forfeit to the king ten pounds ; and likewise it is ordained, that the king's swanherd, nor the said swanherds of the counties, nor the deputies, shall enter into the duchy to take up any swans or cygnets, nor them to mark, without the swanherd of the duchy be present, upon pain to forfeit ten pounds.

5. Item, it is ordained, that if any swan or cygnet be found without the duchy double marked, or put out of the right marks, that then it shall be

seized for the king, and to be delivered to the master of the king's game of swans, or his deputy, and so to remain till that it be proved by four or six sufficient swanherds to whom the said swans or cygnets belong or appertain, so that the knowledge of the same be had by the said swanherd ; and before the delivery before the sessions of the swans then next to be kept within the county where it shall happen, the said swans or cygnets to be seized or delivered in form aforesaid ; and if so be the property of the said swans cannot be known by the seizer, that then the king to be answered of the value of the same swans or cygnets, on pain of ten pounds.

6. Item, it is ordained, that if any person or persons willingly put any swans from their nests whensoever they breed, or else take up and destroy and bear away the eggs of such swans, upon pain to forfeit to the king ten pounds.

The Meres, at the time the manor was granted by Charles I. to Sir Cornelius Vermuyden, were let to Edmund, earl of Mulgrave, for the yearly rent of thirteen pounds eight shillings and four pence ; the largest of them, mentioned by Leland, over which he appears to have passed, extended from Double Bridge eastward on the Levels. This mere or lake was formed by the waters of the Dun ; but, on the course of that river being turned by Sir Cornelius Vermuyden, it was drained, and the fishery and swannery destroyed.

From the low situation of the bed of the lake,

the inhabitants gave the ground the name of "No Man's Friend;" its general unproductiveness having nearly ruined some of the first occupiers; although it is now brought, by good management and the improved state of the drainage, into fine cultivation.

THE CHURCH.

In the first century after the conquest a church or chapel was erected here, by the Warren family, a considerable population being then collected at Thorne. It was afterwards presented, with several others, to the church of Lewes, by William de Warren, in the following document.

A. A. 260—Out of the Croucher, of the priory of Lewes, com. Sussex, in the custody of Edward, earl of Dorset, 1629 :

William de Warren, Earl of Surrey=Gundreda.

Ralph Rainold William, Earl of Surrey*=Isabel.

"Know all, &c. That I, William, earl of Warren, have endowed the church of St. Pancras, of Lewes, and have thereof given saisin by the hairs of my head, and of my brother Ralph de Warren, which Henry, bishop of Winchester, cut of our heads with a knife before the altar; in Yorkshire, the churches of Kuningsburgh, of Wakefield, of Bertune, Great and Little Sandale, of Hedfend, of Thorne, of Sillac, of Hartille, of Dinnington, &c. Witnesses, Theobald, Archbishop of Canterbury, Robert, Bishop of Bath, Asceline, Bishop of Rochester."

* Hunter supposes this grant to have been made by the third earl, vide Hist. of the Deanery of Doncaster, p. 106.

The first erection, although called a Capella, appears to have been a building not to be distinguished from a parish church, and in the reign of Edward II. the inhabitants attempted to obtain the extension of parochial rights to it. They directed a petition to the archbishop and abbot of St. Mary, in which they set forth the great inconvenience that was sustained in consequence of their distance from the parish-church, and the difficulty of access to it. They stated that a little time before, some of the people of Thorne, were conveying a corpse for interment at Hatfield, when a storm arose, and many persons were drowned, and their bodies not found for several days. They beg that their chapel, being old and decayed, might be new built; that their town might be made a distinct parish, and their chapel a *capella parochialis*, free for the administration of the sacrament and the sepulchre of the dead. The age of the foundation of new parishes was passed. To the other parts of the petition the archbishop lent a favourable ear. He gave permission for the performance of the sacraments and granted forty days relaxation of penance to all parishioners and others of the diocese, being truly contrite, penitent, and confessed, who should charitably contribute to the repairs, building, and support of the chapel of Thorne, within the parish of Hatfield. This was done at Rossington, in 1320.

At the reformation the parochial chapels were left untouched. But two chantries, one of St. Michael, and the other of our Lady, which had been founded

in the chapel were suppressed. What the crown, however, spared, the people were disposed to take. In the reign of king Edward VI. persons had begun to plunder and destroy the edifice ; which moved the king, in the 7th of his reign, to appoint twenty discreet persons, namely, Edward Steere, Thomas Smith, William Foster, and others, to be guardians of the possessions of the church of St. Nicholas, of Thorne, making then a body corporate, with perpetual succession. The service in the chapel was to be continued as heretofore, at the expense of the vicar of Hatfield, By the same letters patent he gave them liberty to purchase lands, to the value of twenty pounds per annum, of the king, or any other person, for the support of a grammar-school. But no school was founded, no person being disposed to contribute to the design.

The present church is a good plain gothic building, remarkably fresh and free from moss, and has suffered little from the dilapidations of time. It appears to be substantially that which was erected in the reign of Edward III. The buttresses of the body of the church are hewn stone, but the wall in many of the compartments between them, is only composed of rounded stone and cement, plastered over. This plastering is frequently renewed, and the building generally kept in good repair.

On each side of the opposite corner stones of the porch is an inscription, and over the door is a shield of arms, checkie, and an inescutcheon, with a rose

or planet on each side ; which must be a memorial of one of the Warrens, and probably of one of the illegitimate sons of John, the last earl, to whom grants of land were made in the neighbourhood.

The arch leading into the church is pointed Saracenic or Gothic, very heavy ; the same may be said of all the others that are visible within. They are supported by plain massy pillars ; there are also a few circular arches ; but modern improvements and additions in ceiling, &c. seem to have given a very different aspect to the building from that which the interior must originally have had, before the arches in the belfrey that support the tower were walled up, and the wood screen placed in the situation it now occupies ; of the windows it would be difficult to give an accurate description, they are of so many orders, sizes, shapes and dates.

The stone in some of the before mentioned arches appears to have been carved, but the frequent application of thick white-wash, has completely, destroyed the labour of the sculptor, and will ere long bury every trace of his workmanship.

The church is roofed with oak, and covered with lead. On the top of the tower are many rude carvings, and a few names of visitors, who have been upon its airy summit.

It may be interesting to some, to be made acquainted with the leading features, of the three different species of architecture, the Saxon, the Norman, and the Saracenic, or that species vulgarly,

though improperly, called Gothic, which was supposed to be first introduced into Europe by some persons returning from the crusades.*

In the oldest Saxon buildings, the pillars are large and plain, the arches simple circular, and heavy; and the roof of timber, covered with lead. The early Norman architecture differed very little at first from the Saxon. The general plan or disposition of our later Saxon and earliest Norman churches are the same. Edward the Confessor was educated in Normady, and first introduced the Norman stile of building, when he erected the abbey church of Westminster. The Saxon churches were generally of a moderate size, begun and finished in five or six years. The works of the Normans were large and magnificent: their whole design was laid at first, scarcely, we may imagine, with a view of their ever living to see it completed. They generally began at the east end, or the choir part; when that was finished and covered in, the church was often consecrated; the remainder carried on as far as they were able, and then left to their successors to be completed.

All our cathedrals, most of our abbey churches,

*Bentham, in order to shew how improperly our buildings in the second and third centuries are called Gothic, proves "that throughout all Syria, Arabia, &c. there is not a gothic building to be found, except such as were raised by the Latin Christians subsequent to the perfection of that stile of architecture in Europe." What is erroneously called the gothic stile was not invented until about six hundred years after the Goths disappeared from the theatre of the world. Milner.

The reader may find the rise and progress of the Saracenic architecture in Captain Grove's Essay.

and a vast number of parochial churches, were either rebuilt, or greatly improved, within a century after the conquest; and all of them by Norman workmen introduced into this kingdom, as will evidently appear, from examining the history of their several foundations.

The Saracenic or Gothic, by which term it is usually designated, seems to have been introduced into England about the reign of king John, and as Rastall, in his history of Southwell, observes, “to have prevailed, pretty generally, in that of his son, Henry III., and to have continued, with little variation, till the reign of Edward III., when a considerable alteration took place in the construction of the pillars and roofs. The roofs began to be divided into several compartments by a kind of ribs, meeting in the centre of the arch, and forming triangular spaces on each side. These ribs and the junctures of them were more or less ornamented, according to the affluence of the builder, the skill of the architect, or the purpose of the buildings.

The columns now began to take the form of a cluster of small pillars, closely united, and forming one compact and solid, but slender and elegant support. The short round headed window of the Saxons was lengthened into a narrow oblong form, with a pointed top, in every respect much the shape of a lancet, often decorated in the inside with slender pillars, &c. This style commenced about the year 1200. In fine, after the most diligent enquiry, it appears, that an arched or vaulted roof of stone, and

that species of ornament which goes under the denomination of zig-zag, are unequivocal signs of those buildings which were erected soon after the conquest, and continued till the reign of Edward III., when a lighter and more elegant stile took place."

There is nothing particularly striking, or what would be termed elegant in the interior structure of the church at Thorne; ornament and decoration may, however, with great propriety be dispensed with, as tending rather to abstract the thoughts from the author of all our blessings, than settle them in meditation on Him, whose

Spirit, ever brooding o'er our mind,
Sees the first wish to better hopes inclin'd;
Marks the young dawn of every virtuous aim,
And fans the smoking flax into a flame.

BARBAULD.

The Font appears to be very ancient; it is composed of free stone, but without date, at least, if such there be, it is now covered over with paint; the bowl or hollow is sufficiently capacious to admit of a child being completely immersed.

On the south side of the church, in a nich in the wall, covered with a small circular arch, is a shallow basin, cut out of the free-stone, about nine inches in diameter, and four in depth, with a hole in the bottom, to allow of water passing away into the wall. This basin appears to have been designed to contain the water accounted holy by the Romish priests, and employed in some of the ceremonies of their church.

MONUMENTS.

The marble tombs that rise on high,
 Whose dead in vaulted arches lie,
 Whose pillars swell with sculptur'd stones,
 Arms, angels, epitaphs, and bones ;
 These (all the poor remains of state)
 Adorn the rich, or praise the great ;
 Who while on earth in fame they live,
 Are senseless of the fame they give.
 Ha ! while I gaze, pale Cynthia fades,
 The bursting earth unveils the shades !
 All slow, and wan, and wrapp'd with shrouds,
 They rise in visionary crowds,
 And all with sober accent cry,
 " Think, mortal, what it is to die ! " PARNELL.

Perhaps one of the oldest tomb-stones that is legible, is on the north side of the chancel ; it records the name of Thomas Darlinge, who died anno domini 1654, aged 75.

On a neat marble monument is inscribed,

" Near this place are deposited the remains of Edward Foster, Esquire, who died 11th January, A. D. 1781, in the 75th year of his age, This tribute to the memory of an affectionate husband and a sincere christian, was erected by his widow, Jane Foster, 1784." Arms, Sable, three pheons' heads ; or, an escutcheon of pretence argent. three estoils sable, fess sable.

On another marble monument is the following inscription,

" Mordecai Cutts, Esq. who died April 27, 1787, aged 86 ; and of Elizabeth Cutts, his sister, who died the 30th June, 1782, aged 77." *

A large stone in the wall contains an inscription to this effect,

" Here nigh this place lyeth the body of William Kent, Col. Lincoln, Oxon, M.A. son of William Kent, Kimberworth. gent, late curate of Thorne, who died 17th Jan, 1717, aged 30 years.

" Elizabeth, wife of Edward Canby, gent, daughter of Richard Elmhirst, of Houndhill, in the parish of Worsborough, gent, 1685, aged 43."

* Peck adds, " I am informed, that Mr. Cutts fought under duke William. at the battle of Culloden, and that he was celebrated for his loyalty."

“ Edward Canby, of Thorne, gent. 1702.”

“ Rev. Thomas Tennant, 1743, aged 76.”

“ Rev. John Atkinson, 1789, aged 79.”

“ Rev. Lancelot Todhunter, 1802, aged 54.”

And others.

The tower, or steeple, is ascended by ladders, and contains three stories; in the upper one are five large bells and a small one; the date on the largest is 1611, on another is OVR 1671, and a third bears the same date. From the top of the steeple is a beautiful bird's eye view of the surrounding country, with the rivers Humber, Trent, Ouse, Aire, Don, and Went, and taking within its circuit as large and productive a district as, perhaps, can be seen from any single situation in England, of equal elevation.

Dr. Miller, in his account of the vicinity of Doncaster, says, “ There is nothing particular in Thorne church, except that a psalmodic or barrel organ has been lately put up in the gallery, with psalm tunes adapted for every Sunday throughout the year: also a hymn for Christmas day, one for Easter, and two or three voluntaries. I have recommended these organs (as the expence of them is small) in places where they cannot afford to pay an organist's salary, and have also selected proper music for the use.”

The same writer, in giving a description of the organ in Doncaster church, thus proceeds; “ The reader may suppose what effect this fine instrument had on the parishioners, when erected, in the year 1739, as the Rev. Mr. Fawkes, at that time curate, thought it necessary to preach an appropriate

sermon on its being opened. Judge of the sublimity of this discourse by the following specimen. After having wound up his imagination to the highest pitch in praise of church music, speaking of the organ, he said, "But O what!—O what! shall I call thee by? thou divine box of sounds!"

According to Peck, Thorne church is dedicated to St. Nicholas, and of the certified value of £48. 17s. 10d. The late patron was the earl of Portmore, who was also owner of the great and small tithes. He disposed of his rights to Sir Henry Etherington, of Hull, and, since his decease, they have been in the hands of Lord Deerhurst, in right of his wife, the present patron.

BENEFACTIONS TO THE CHURCH AND POOR,
which sums are paid out of the lands named.

		Church.			Poor.		
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Oct. 5,	Robert Foster, one close in Land End,	1	-	-			
1648	called Callis Croft, containing 1 acre	1	-	-			
July 28	Alice Balland, two acres, near Hadds	1	-	-			
1651	Richard Dawy, three roods of moor						
Oct. 20,	in Och Moors, now Dr. Heathcot's				-	4	-
1658	R. Dawy, a house where J. Brook				-	6	-
	lived, and now Mr. E. Foster's						
Dec. 8,	D. Darling, two acres in Tweenbrig						
1668	Moor, now Thomas Candy's	-	15	-	-	5	-
June 8,	P. Jackson, one acre in Nun Moors,						
1675	now the minister's	-	5	-	-	15	-
Dec 27,	T. Stakey, see the surrender for the						
1692	said, W. Yates to T. Canby, gent	-	15	-			
May 1,	Inggs and other lands, now T. Foster's	-	14	-	1	10	-
1694	Thomas Ballard, paid out of, now						
	Foster's	-	6	-	-	6	-
	S. Empring, paid out of three acres						
	moor, in Pighill Moor, now Foster's	-	13	-	-	13	4
	S. Empring, close at Land End, Hop						
	Croft, now J. Ferrey's	-	3	4	-	3	4
	J. Broadbent, one acre in Broad-						
	bent Gate Moor, and half an acre in						
	the fields, now F. Hanson's	-	10	-	1	-	-
	E. Jenniugs, one acre in Sand Moor,						
	now J. Bladworth's				-	15	-

BENEFACTIONS—*continued*

		Church. £ s. d.	Poor. £ s. d.
	J. Spivey, two closes in Sandally, eight acres, now J. Box's		1 - -
	R. Deaman surrendered from J. Box, 27th June, 1725		1 - -
	J. Margrave, one acre in Mill Balk, one acre Old Inggs, now Margrave's Thomas Husling, now D. Heathcot's	- 10 -	1 - -
	M. Wormesley, several lands at Braifit, in Yarbrough		1 - -
	E. Ballard, one acre in Hadds, in a close now R. Waitt's	- 10 -	
	J. Hussling, two acres in Hadds, in a close now M. Foster's	1 - -	
Mar. 1, 1726	R. Darling, Hull, gentleman, nine parts of the tolls of the markets and fairs of Thorne	- 10 -	- 10 -
Oct. 24, 1727	W. Redwell, gentleman, five roods in the fields, for preaching a sermon on every sacrament day through the year	- 10 -	
	W. Darling, one close, Land's End Thomas C.		- 2 - 10 -
	Twenty pounds to be laid out in land, the income to be for a sermon on St. Thomas's day.		

The Parish Register commences in 1565.

In the church yard opposite to the south entrance porch, is a stone coffin, now very much mutilated, and without ornament or inscription. It was dug up many years ago, and placed in its present situation by the sexton.

About twenty years ago, the antiquated remains, of a yew tree were removed, from the situation where it grew, nearly opposite the chancel door.

Antiquaries seem at a loss to determine at what period this tree first obtained a place in church yards. A statute passed in 1307, 35 Edward I. the title of which is "Ne rector arbores in cemeterio

prosternat," the rector must not fell any trees in the churchyard. Now if it be recollected that we seldom see any other very large or ancient trees in a churchyard, except yew, this statute must have principally related to this species of trees ; and consequently their being planted in church yards is of much more ancient date than A.D. 1307.

As to the use of these trees, possibly the most respectable parishioners were buried under their shade, before the improper custom was introduced of burying within the body of the church, where the living are to assemble. Deborah, Rebekah's nurse, was buried under an oak ; probably the most honourable place of interment next to the cave of Machpelah, which seems to have been appropriated to the remains of the patriarchal family alone.

The further use of yew trees by their thick foliage, might be for a screen to churches from the violence of the winds ; perhaps also for the purposes of archery, the best long bows being made of that material : and we do not hear that they are planted in the church yards of any other parts of Europe, where long bows were not so much in use. They might also be placed to shelter the congregation assembling before the church doors were opened, and as an emblem of mortality, by their funereal appearance. See Gil.White's Hist.Selborne.

Now from yon black and fun'ral yew,
That bathes the charnel-house with dew,
Methinks I hear a voice begin ;

When men my sithe and darts supply,
How great a king of fears am I !

OLD HALL.

Dr. Miller, says, " I was shewn here (Thorne) the house in which Sir Cornelius Vermuyden lived, when he came with his workmen from Holland, in the reign of Charles I. to drain these Levels. The house here referred to, is supposed to be the present Old Hall, which was built in 1575, by Edward Stere; there is a shield of arms, E. S., and the above date over the door; it is an irregular building, partly stone and partly brick, and it is not improbable that the materials of the Peel or Castle have been used in its erection.

THE COLLEGE.

In a rental of the Parish, made and renewed in 1667, there is entered to George Sanderson, a messuage, and a cottage, called a College, next the church stile and church yard. The site is now occupied by buildings belonging to Jonathan Bleasby. The old erection had a porch in front, but there does not appear to be any record from which we can ascertain whether it was ever endowed, or from what cause it derived this name.

JACOB'S WELL.

A little medicinal spring, that rose above the surface of the ground on a small eminence at the south end of the town, near the Wike Gate; it is generally supposed to have received the above name from Jacob Lenard, who lived for some time at Bradholm, not a great distance from the place whence it issued. Formerly, a stone trough, with a hole through the centre of the bottom, and about the

size of a mill stone, was placed over the spring, above the edge of which the water trickled in all seasons of the year. The water was very limpid, and slightly sulphurous. Persons visiting the spring, frequently put pins into the trough, to try the effect of the water upon them. It does not appear that it was ever analyzed. The site of this spring has been destroyed by the cutting of the canal.

SECTION III.

CHARTERS, &c. AND HISTORICAL EVENTS.

IN the Harleian M.S. No. 286, is a letter from Sir Henry Lee, to Sir Francis Walsingham, dated *Tourne* (Thorne) Feb. 23, 1586, amongst other particulars, “desiring that her majesty would grant the inhabitants of the town there, being her tenants, a market and a fair, for their relief.”

The following is a copy of the letter—

Sr,

To whom I accownt myselfe most bounde. Immedyatyly after my last waytynge on you, as a most unfortunat man and forced by necessyt I came hither to a small corner and quyetē of my brotheres, ii mylles from Hatfeld, wher at my request he is content to lyve: and iii dayes after my arryvyngē here I fell sycke of a contynuall fever, w^{ch} helde me xxii dayes, and hath brought me excetyngē week; as to men not born to good, evil happes goo never unaccompened. But that which I cannot amend,

by the grace of hym that gydes all, I will quietly indure, to satisfy her Ma^{ty} and the worlde, to whom I am in dett, and to mak tyme ether the hilyer of me, or the ende of me: a phisysyon that will cure as well the happy as wreched att the last. I wryte thys much because you shall understand my estat, wher I am, and wher to fynd me, yf her majest. inquire, and you command me if I may doe you servys.

Sr, I have been often seyck, and long or thys dede yf the helpe of doctor Astlowe had not bene. Yf his estat or her majesty's favowre to me were such that he myght he suffered to come to me for a while, I shoulde the better be cleared of the drages of my diseases contynue her trew and faythefull owlde servant, that wyll serve her wth my prayer when other wayes I can not shewe better frutes of my desyer. And thys parformed I wyll be bounde he shall ritorne, yf soo yt be her pleasure, unto the place wher now he is.

I have bowght of Sir Antone Sturley, as I acquaynted you wth all, and by the favoure and furtheraunce of my lorde treasurere, the keypyng of a castle of her majesty's in Wales, w^{ch} cost me deare. I grow owld. My yeares ar many: and rather ment yt wth the grace of her ma^{ty} to the good of a nevewe of myne who I have browght uppe and muche love, and is better able to serve her than to myselfe. Wherefore I umbli beseche you a mence to her mageste some what for my comfort to joyne him in pattent wth me, that my syster's sonne may supply

my place when God shall calle me away. His name is Owen Couke ; very honest and one I love much. If her mat deny me thys small favoure I may rightfully wyshe I had never delt w^t all. For my own lyffe I wolde not geve one quarter of that I have payed. But thus much I dyd presume of her most gracyous goodness. For the bennyfit of her poure towne ther and her tennants, my umble sute is that it will please her to grant them another markette and fayre ; only for the relyf of them that hathe gret nede thereof, I desyer yt.

Sr, I would be glade hereafter as I see cause and have more strength, and tyered w^t many other inconvenyenses, to have leve to goo over to see my lorde of Lessyter ; ther to stay or retorne as I thynke good, or yt shall please her mat from tyme to tyme to commande me : never tarryyng att any one tyme above ii monthes.

This Sr, done I make my mone to you ; hope in you ; and trouble you ; for w^{ch} I can^t doo you no gratfull servys : for w^{ch} I am sorry, for if I could or may I will. And so I beseeche you to commaunde me ; w^t whyche I umbly take my leve.

Yours umble to command

From Thourne, the xxiii of Febuary. *Henry Lee.*
To the ryght honorable his very good frende Sr Francis Wallsyngham, knyght, pryncypall secretary to her mate : geve these.

But at the time this letter was written, the queen (Elizabeth,) appears to have been too much engrossed with the weighty matters of state, and the

affairs of the unfortunate Mary, queen of Scots, to listen to the suggestions of her counsellors for the relief of her Thorne tenants, neither did she afterwards attend to the request or grant them any immunities.

In order to give a little more interest to this work, a few anecdotes have been selected. The following, illustrative of Elizabeth's jealousy of Mary, is thus given by Sir James Melville, who was ambassador from Mary, queen of Scots to the English court, in his memoirs, "The queen, my mistress, knowing queen Elizabeth's humour, commanded me not to be too much upon the reserve with her, and that my conversation might not be tiresome, to be sometimes upon the diverting strain; wherefore one time giving her an account of different modes of foreign customs, I even mentioned the women's buskins. Upon which she told me, that she had the dress of every country and every fashion by her, and indeed she took after that every day a different dress, some times after the English, sometimes after the French, and sometimes after the Italian mode. At last she would know of me which dress became her best; I answered, in my opinion, the Italian, which answer seemed not to be displeasing to her; for she loved exceedingly to shew her fair hair; so that a little Italian bonnet was what pleased her best. Her hair was rather of a yellowish colour, but with a beautiful curl, which in appearance was natural. She asked me which coloured hair was reckoned the handsomest, her's or my queen's; and seeing that I hesitated, she pressed

me to declare upon this point. I told her she was the finest queen in England, and mine in Scotland. But this not satisfying her, I said they were both the most charming women in their country ; that her majesty was indeed the fairest, but that my queen was also very lovely. She would still know which of the two was the tallest ; to which I answered, my queen. “ Then,” says she, “ she, must be too tall, for I am neither too tall, nor too short.”

To return to the history; what could not be effected during the long and prosperous reign of queen Elizabeth, was accomplished within the short time [that Richard Cromwell held the reins of government, which was only two years from the death of his predecessor ; the charter granted by Richard Cromwell to the following fourteen inhabitants of Thorne, to hold a market there on Thursday in every week, was dated Dec. 20th, 1658, and has Oliver Cromwell’s great seal affixed to it, viz. Thomas Canby, Francis Hanson, Edward Foster, Thomas Darling, William Darling, William Foster, George Starkie, Seth Southwell, Thomas Middlebrooke, Philip Holmes, Thomas Darlinge, the younger, Peter Jackson, John Burr, and William Briggs, and their heirs for ever, in trust for the inhabitants of Thorne, for the time being.

From the date of the above, this charter appears to have been granted little more than three months after the death of Oliver Cromwell.

After the abdication of Richard Cromwell, an account is given of him by a Mr. Pennant, who lived

at Chelsea, he often used to see Richard at a coffee-house, imagined to be Don Saltero's, and represents him then to be a little, and very neat, old man, with a most placid countenance, the effect of his innocent and unambitious life.

Richard Cromwell resided some time on the continent, and returned to England about the year 1680. His letters remaining amongst the family papers, are numerous ; they are principally written to his daughters ; they are expressed in the terms of the most parental affection, though at times seemingly disapproving their management of the family estate ; but no evidence of their unfeeling behaviour towards him, discribed by some writers, is discoverable in them. None of his letters are dated from any place ; and the signatures to them are generally " C. R." reversing the initials of his name ; sometimes " Richardson," sometimes " Crandbourn," " Cranbury," " Cranmore."

Richard's letters are of a devotional turn. Mr. Neal, in his History of the Puritans, says of him, that in his younger years he had not at all that zeal for religion as was the fashion of the times, but that those who knew him well in the latter part of his life had assured him (Mr. Neal) that he was a perfect gentleman in his behaviour ; well acquainted with public affairs ; of great gravity, and real piety ; but so very modest, that he would not be distinguished or known by any name but the feigned one, of Mr. Clark. He was born in 1626, and married in 1649, he was therefore only twenty three years of age at

the time of his marriage, and the treaty of the marriage appears to have commenced in 1647; not leaving him much time for gallantry: nor does his father in his letters complain of his conduct in this respect, but those of disinclination to public business, and a too expensive mode of living. The presumption, therefore, seems to be, that he never was a dissolute character.

He died in the year 1712, in the 86th, year of his age, in, as it is said, and as is probable, sergeant Pengelly's house, at Cheshunt, understood to be the house next the church, called the rectory house, and was buried in the chancel of the church of Hurstey, in Hampshire.—Cromwell's Memoirs of Cromwell.

Such is the amiable character given of Richard Cromwell, who may be considered to have been the original patron of Thorne.

On the accession of Charles the second to the throne, the charter granted by Richard Cromwell was annulled, and another, of which the following is a translation from the original (in Latin) granted.

Charles the second, by the Grace of God of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland King, Defender of the Faith, and so forth. To all to whom these Letters shall come, greeting, WHEREAS by an inquiry and inquisition under our mandate taken at the castle of York, in the county of York, certified to our Court of Chancery, and there remaning, on the oath of twelve honest and lawful men of the county aforesaid, it clearly appeared, that it would not be to the hurt or prejudice of ourselves or others, if

we should grant to Edward Foster, gentleman, Edward Canby, gentleman, Thomas Darling, senior, gentleman, Thomas Darling, junior, gentleman Francis Hanson, gentleman, William Darling, gentleman, Thomas Middlebrooke, gentleman John Myers, John Burr, and Robert Preston, junior, and their heirs, one market, to be held on Wednesday in every week at the town of Thorne, in the county aforesaid, and two fairs in every year at the same town of Thorne, namely, one of which to be held on the first Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday in June, and the other on the first Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday in every October, and that it should continue on all these days for ever, and the tolls and profits thence coming and arising to be taken to them and their heirs, as by the inquisition aforesaid may more fully be known and appear: Now KNOW YE, That we of our special grace and from our certain knowledge and mere motion, have given and granted, and by these presents for us, our heirs and successors, we do give and grant to the aforesaid Edward Foster, Edward Canby, Thomas Darling, senior, Thomas Darling, junior, Francis Hanson, William Darling, Thomas Middlebrooke, John Myers, John Burr, and Robert Preston, junior, inhabitants of the town aforesaid, their heirs and assigns, that they their heirs and assigns for ever hereafter may have, hold, and keep, and may and can have, hold, and keep a market on Wednesday in every week unless the feast of the birth of our Lord shall happen on that day, and then and so often as it shall fall on that day, it shall be held and kept for ever on the day next

preceding that Feast, at the town of Thorne aforesaid ; also, two fairs or marts to be held in every year at that town, namely, one of the fairs or marts on the first Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday in every month of June, and the other of the same fairs or marts to be held on the first Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday in every month of October respectively ; and during all those days respectively a common Court of *pie powder* * shall be held and kept at the times of the aforesaid market and several fairs or marts aforesaid respectively, and with all liberties, free customs, tolls, duties, stallages, pickages, fines, amercements, and all other profits, advantages, and emoluments whatsoever to this sort of market, fairs, or marts, and courts of *pie powder* aforesaid, or to any of them in anywise belonging, appertaining, arising, or coming, or with the same or any of them usually had, held, or enjoyed, To have, hold, and enjoy the aforesaid, market, fairs, or marts, liberties, free customs, tolls, stallages † pickages, ‡ courts of *pie powder*, fines, amercements, and all and singular other the above premises, by these presents granted to the aforesaid Edward Foster, Edward Canby, Thomas Darling, senior, Thomas Darling, junior, Francis Hanson, William

* Court of Pie Poudre, an ancient court mentioned in many of our statutes, to be held in fairs, for the rendering of justice to buyers and sellers, and the redress of grievances arising therein. It is a court of record, held during the continuance of the fairs. The steward who has the toll of the market is the judge; and the trial is by merchants and traders in the fair. A writ of error lies to the courts of Westminster.---Rees.

† Stallage, money paid for liberty to erect stalls.

‡ Picceage, money paid for breaking up ground to set stalls up.

Darling, Thomas Middlebrooke, John Myers, John Burr, and Robert Preston, junior, their heirs and assigns for ever, to the only proper use and behoof of them the said Edward Foster, Edward Canby, Thomas Darling, senior, Thomas Darling, junior, Francis Hanson, William Darling, Thomas Middlebrooke, John Myers, John Burr, and Robert Preston, junior, their heirs and assigns for ever, and that without composition or other matter therefore rendered, paid, or done to us our heirs or successors. WHEREFORE, We will and by these presents for us our heirs and successors solemnly enjoining, do order and command that the aforesaid Edward Foster, Edward Canby, Thomas Darling, senior, Thomas Darling, junior, Francis Hanson, William Darling, Thomas Middlebrooke, John Myers, John Burr, and Robert Preston, junior, their heirs and assigns by virtue of these presents, fully, freely, lawfully, and quietly do have, hold, and keep, and shall and may have, hold, and keep, for ever at the aforesaid town of Thorne, the markets, fairs, or marts, at and upon all the respective days aforesaid, together with all and every the liberties, customs, tolls, and profits thence arising, or with the same, or any of them enjoyed, according to the tenor and true intent of these our letters patent, without the molestation, disturbance, burden, or contradiction of us, our heirs or successors; or any of the sheriffs, bailiffs, officers, or servants whatsoever of us, our heirs or successors; and this without any warrant, writ, or process from us, our heirs or successors for

that purpose ever procured or obtained : on account that express mention is not made of the true annual value, or of the certainty of the premises, or any of them, or of any other gifts or grants by us or by any of our progenitors, to the said Edward Foster, Edward Canby, Thomas Darling, senior, Thomas Darling, junior, Francis Hanson, William Darling, Thomas Middlebrooke, John Myers, John Burr, and Robert Preston, junior, their heirs and assigns, heretofore made in these presents at least appears made, or of any statute, act, ordinance, provision, proclamation, or restriction to the contrary thereof, heretofore had, made, published, ordained, or provided, or any other thing, cause or matters whatsoever in anywise notwithstanding.

In witness whereof, We have granted these our letters patent. Witness ourselves at Westminster, the twenty-ninth day of April, in the thirteenth year of our reign.

By the King himself, HOWARD.

In the margin of the charter is a miniature likeness of Charles II. with his profusion of hair, the seal * attached to it is of black wax, about five

* The use of seals is very ancient, as additions to persons names in public writings, deeds, and pleadings, and their places of residence, began, chiefly, to be inserted in the first year of Henry V. King Edward, the confessor, upon his foundation of Westminster Abbey, was, as is reported, the first in England who put his seal to his charter, according to the custom of the Normans, with whom he was educated. And, for many years after this period, the king only, and some of the nobility, used seals, chiefly with their images on horseback impressed thereon; but about king Edward the Third's reign, seals became common. Before the subscribing names to ancient charters and evidences, they were only signed with seals without any impression; and the truth of this assertion appears from many of the

inches in diameter, but considerably damaged and broken.

Charles the second, is represented when he came to the throne to have been possessed of an agreeable person, an elegant address, and an engaging manner ; but it was soon found that these advantages were merely superficial. His indolence and love of pleasure made him averse from all kinds of business ; his familiarities were prostituted to the worst as well as the best of his subjects ; and he took no care to reward his former friends, as he had taken few steps to be avenged of his former enemies. The following anecdote is related of this monarch. A young gentleman of family and fortune, but of abandoned principles, having long distinguished himself during the reign of that monarch, by highway robberies, and other desperate acts against society, was often apprehended, and sometimes convicted, but, through the interest of his friends, had always been pardoned. He was at length tried for murder, and condemned. Many of the nobility interceded in his favour ; but to no effect ; the king was inexorable. He had the pen in his hand to sign the order for his execution, when some of the courtiers threw a copy of a pardon upon the table before him. The duchess of Portsmouth, his chief favourite, standing at his right shoulder, took his hand gently with her own, small grants. However, to the honour of the Yorkshire ladies, it is recorded, that Johanna Stuteville, an heiress, at Hessle, near Hull, for the sake of modesty, first introduced the custom of riding sideways, therefore the impression on her seal was a woman riding sideways, with a bridle in her hand.---Miller.

and conducting it to the paper which had the pardon written on it, guided his hand while he subscribed his name, the king not making the least resistance ; shaking his head, and smiling, he threw the pardon to the nobleman who had interposed on the young man's behalf, saying, " Take care you keep the rascal out of my reach for the future." When this pardon was shewn to the lord chancellor Hyde, observing how badly the letters of the king's name were formed, he wittily remarked, that when his majesty signed the pardon, " Justice had been fighting against mercy."

In the escape of Charles after his defeat at Worcester, " he had on a white steeple crowned hat, without any other lining besides grease, both sides of the brim so doubled up with handling, that they looked like two spouts ; a leather doublet, full of holes, and almost black with grease about the sleeves, collar, and waist, an old green woodriff's coat, thread bare, and patched in most places ; with a pair of breeches of the same cloth, and in the same condition, the slops hanging down loose to the middle of the leg ; hose and shoes of different parishes ; the hose were grey stirrups, much darned and clouted, especially about the knees ; under them he had a pair of flannel riding stockings of his own, the tops of them cut off ; his shoes had been cobbled, being pieced both on the soles and seams, and the upper leathers so cut and slashed to fit his feet, that they seemed quite unfit to defend him either from water or dirt. This exotic and deformed

dress, added to his short hair, cut off to the ears, his face coloured brown with walnut tree leaves, and a rough crooked thorn stick in his hand, had so metamorphosed him, that it was hard, even for those who had been before well acquainted with his person, and conversant with him, to have discovered who he was."

Charles before his decease, expressed that he was heartily sorry for the sins of his past life, and particularly for having deferred his conversion so long. He expressed the greatest kindness and tenderness for the duke of York that could possibly be conceived. He owned, in the most public manner, the sense he had of his brotherly affection during the whole course of his life; he commended his great submission and constant obedience to all his commands; and asked his pardon aloud for the rigorous treatment with which he had so long exercised his patience; all this he said in so affectionate a manner, as to draw floods of tears from all that were present. He spoke most tenderly of the queen too; and, in fine, left nothing unsaid or undone, that so small a time would allow of, either to reconcile himself to his maker, or to make satisfaction to those he had injured upon earth, disposing himself to die with the piety becoming a christian and the resolution becoming a king: and then his senses beginning to fail him, (which had continued perfect till about an hour before his death) he expired betwixt eleven and twelve o'clock on Friday morning, 6th of Feb. 1684.—James the Second's Memoirs.

It is presumed the foregoing accounts will not be uninteresting to some readers, while the individuals of whom they relate are connected with the history Thorne.

In the year 1681, a ninth part or share in the market place and tolls, &c. was sold by one of the original proprietors mentioned in the charter of Charles II. then eight years after it had been granted, for the sum of three pounds lawful English money.

In 1689, in the reign of William and Mary, the same share of a parcel of ground, called the market place, in the graveship of Thorne, with its appurtenances,* was sold for the just sum of eight pounds ten shillings of lawful English money.

The same share again changed hands in the year 1690, as the following abridgement of a curious document will shew :

To all christian people to whom these presents shall come, I, E. P. of Thorne, in the county of York, &c. butcher, sendeth greeting, in our Lord God everlasting, Whereas, our sovereign lord king Charles the second, of blessed memory, &c. did grant to Edward Forster, senior, gentleman, Edward Canby, gent. Thomas Darling, senior, gent. since

* A row of butchers' stalls or shambles formerly stood in a line with the present row of posts ; they were built of wood and tiled over : nearly a century has now elapsed since they were removed.

A few years ago, a large iron ring was dug up from under that part of the square which is now used for the corn market ; it had most probably been placed there to fasten bulls to, for the in-human purpose of baiting them.

deceased, Thomas Darling, jun. gent since deceased, William Darling, jun. since deceased, Francis Hanson, since deceased, Thomas Middlebrooke, since deceased, John Myers, since deceased, John Burr, since deceased, and Robert Preston, inhabitants of the town of Thorne aforesaid, &c. Know ye, &c. I, the said E. P. for and in good cause there unto moving, &c. and in consideration of binding my son John to be an apprentice, have given, granted, &c. to W. B. of Thorne, tanner, all my right, &c. and that of my wife, in the said market place, tolls, &c. to the said W. B. and his heirs, &c. for ever. Dated 3d Feb. 1690.

From this document we learn, that seven out of the ten original share holders were deceased at the expiration of eighteen years after the granting of the charter.

The last sale of the before mentioned share was in 1700, for the sum of twelve pounds.

The income from these shares, after the expences of collecting &c. are deducted, is very trifling to the holders.

During the civil wars of the 17th century, the king (Charles I.) is said to have passed the level of Hatfield Chase twice. Once he passed from Rossington Bridge to Armthorpe ; from thence to the towns of Hatfield and Thorne. From Thorne he was conducted by Thomas Canby, an old officer of the chase, over the wild tract of country called John a More Long, to Whitgift Ferry a long and dreary way. The second time was when he passed from York to

Nottingham, meaning to erect his standard there. He crossed the ferry at Whitgift: proceeded to Goole; from thence he came along the great bank to Hatfield. Dela Pryme, who collected these notices from the old inhabitants of the neighbourhood, says, that his majesty stopped at an alehouse at the north end of the town where he refreshed himself, with a cup of ale*. It was the king's intention to have gone through the isle of Axholme to Gainsborough; but when he arrived at Sandtoft, he found the feeling strong against him and that it would be unsafe to venture that way: The disaffected were then in arms to protect themselves against Robert Porington, grandson to him who so violently opposed the drainage, who was then exerting himself for the king. This induced him to change his route, and he came down the great bank on the right hand, to a place called Bull Hassocks; and leaving Haxey, and all the isle on the left, he passed on to Stockwith, and so to Gainsborough.

He afterwards passed from Beverly to Doncaster, in 1642, as appears from the *Iter Carolinum*.

* Corresponding with the above, in some circumstances, is a tradition frequently recited by an elderly female of the name of Sheppard, who died a few years ago, aged upwards of 90, "that king Charles I. passed through Thorne, on his route to Hull, the time that he was refused admittance into that place; and that the king when at Thorne, stayed a short time before the door of an old mansion that was then standing near the entrance of the Marshland road, where he had some refreshment." It appears in the annals of Hull that king Charles I. was refused admittance into that place April 23, 1642, by the then governor, Sir John Hotham, James, Duke of York, and prince Rupert, being at dinner in that town, at the very time. The old mansion above alluded to was taken down about 50 years ago, and modern erections, on or near the same site, at present belong to Mr. J. Mason.

Sir Thomas Fairfax, after the defeat of Adderton Moor, wounded, dispirited, and fatigued, endeavoured to find his way across the Levels. He crossed the Aire at Carlton Bridge, near Snaith, then a ferry. From thence he passed to Thorne, and then across the devizes of Hatfield to Crowle. "It proved," says Sir Thomas, in his Memoirs, "a very troublesome and dangerous passage, having oft interruptions from the enemy, sometimes in our front, and sometimes in our rear." Colonel Robert Portington, before mentioned, was the enemy he had to dread. This was the darkest day in the life of that gallant man. "I had been," says he, "at least twenty-four hours on horseback, after I was shot, without any refreshment, and as many hours before. And as a further addition to my affliction, my daughter, not above five years old, being carried before her maid, endured all this retreat on horseback; but nature, not able to hold out any longer, she fell into frequent swoonings, and in appearance was ready to expire at last."

The following old document purports to be a description of an ancient custom of rendering service to the lord of the manor, by his copyhold tenants at Thorne.

The ancient usage and custom of election of a Grave.—Lands lying in the fields of Thorne and Tudworth, that pay sixpence an acre per annum to the lord of the manor of Haitefield and Thorne; the whereof, are by ancient usage there, to serve the lord in the office of the grave. And in that style

forth. of which the Grave is to be chosen. All the lands that pay sixpence an acre lords rent, lying in the fields of Thorne and Tudworth, and the Ealands, which not long ago were within the bye-law of the fields, and of late purchased or exchanged by Francis Steer, and now in the possession of David Poole, gent., served the said office of grave, when it comes to its turn ; and Tudworth serves the said office of grave, when it comes to its turn, two years together ; as you may in this book hereafter find.

The ancient usage and custom of election of a grave is on this wise ; that is to say,

So much land is to be taken out of the book, of one caput, as comes to sixteen acres ; and such person, he or she, that hath the most in that caput of sixteen acres, must serve the grave for that year, and all the rest must be contributors to him or her that serveth the said office, and shall pay at Michaelmas after, before a new grave is sworn, twenty-two pence an acre, and so rateably for half acres, roods, &c. ; and if all such as have land in any style forth of which the grave is to be chosen, do not come into the church yard on Michaelmas day, yearly, for that purpose, having no lawful excuse to the contrary, they have usually been taxed to so much money as those who did come should think fit, to be employed at their discretion. The time of meeting usually hath been at one of the clock after noon, and they may either do it there, or go to a place where they please (the place of meeting optional.) In case any difference arise, to go to the land for

better satisfaction, beginning at the land in Furlongs, from Amory Croft to Old Mill Balk, and so forward, by the townside, until it come to the land next the Gore, in the North Field, from whence it goeth into the high Ealands, and from thence it beginneth at the Gore Style, and goes on the low side of the field, next Old Ingg to Wyke Row, and from thence it goeth to Tudworth, when it stays two years, and begins again at two years end, at the Furlongs next Amory Croft aforesaid.—(Old M.S.)

SECTION IV.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.

The following short accounts of a few of the leading characters mentioned during the course of this history, will perhaps be read with interest by some; whilst a regret, no doubt, will be felt, that the whole of A. de la Pryme's works, relative to this part of the country, were not published when in a perfect state; as many particulars, interesting to the local inhabitants of the district, have either undergone alterations, or have been in part mutilated and destroyed.

SIR CORNELIUS VERMUYDEN,

THE great improver, drainer, and benefactor of this part of the country, appears to have built and occupied what is called Grove House, on the Levels, probably to be nearer to some of his works. Peck says, 'little can be gathered respecting this person,

and that little from his enemies. In a pamphlet published, entitled, "The State of that part of Yorkshire, adjoining the Level of Hatfield Chase," 4to, 1701, he is represented as "a monster of a man, whose natural qualities no one English epithet can answer." Without doubt this colouring is much overcharged; and, with due deference to the prejudices of the old inhabitants, he rather deserved their thanks for the improvements he caused to cth country. A. de la Pryme gives the following account of Sir Cornelius's first becoming acquainted with this district; thus, "Prince Henry, eldest son of James I. making a progress to York, hunted in Hatfield Chase, and was entertained by Portington, of Tudworth; Vermuyden was with him, and thence conceived the design of draining the Levels.

"This Hatfield Chase," Pryme further proceeds, "Sir Cornelius Vermuyden purchases of Charles I. in order to dischase, drain, and reduce it to constant arable and pasture grounds. This, to the wonderful surprise of the whole nation, and the vast advantage of the whole country round about, which before was but barbarously and thinly inhabited, poor and beggarly, and at the incredible labour and charges of above £400,000, he at length bravely and effectually performed; whose name deserves a thousand times more to be honourably mentioned and received in all our histories, than Scaurus's was in those of Rome, for draining a great lake in Italy, not quarter so big as this."*

* Philosophical Transactions, Vol. IV. page 212.

The obloquy and hatred which he met with, may be accounted for, in a great measure, by the natural dislike which the poorer commoners have shewn to inclosures at all times, and in all parts of the kingdom.

Sir Cornelius Vermuyden after he left the Levels, engaged in other speculations ; and about A.D.1631, he took a lease for thirty years of the Dove Gang lead mine, near Wirksworth, reckoned the best in the country, in conjunction with Sir Robert Heath ; he also published a " Discourse touching the Drainage, and State of the Case," 4to, 1656. This treatise Sir William Dugdale made use of in his " Drayning and Imbanking of divers Fenms and Marshes," folio, 1662.

Where Vermuyden afterwards lived, and where he died, (Peck says) I am equally uninformed ; but, in a pamphlet, published by one who was very much opposed to his proceedings in the drainage, it is stated, that he " died miserably poor in the south."

ROGER PORTINGTON, OF TUDWORTH, ESQ.

It will naturally be expected that some account should be given of the person who entertained Prince Henry, during the time he hunted on Hatfield Chase: but before that is proceeded with, the reader perhaps will not object to Pryme's picturesque description of that day's hunting.

" When Henry, prince of Wales, visited Yorkshire in 1609, he was entertained at Streethorpe, on the

side of the chase towards Doncaster, the residence of Sir Robert Swift. After one day spent in plain stag-hunt the chief regarnder of Thorne and R. Portington, esquire, having promised to let the prince see such sport as he never saw in his life, the prince and his retinue went with them; and being come to Tudworth, where Mr. Portington lived, they all embarked themselves in almost 100 boats that were provided there ready, and having frightened some 500 deer out of the woods, grounds and closes adjoining (which had been driven there the night before,) they all, as they were commonly wont, took to the water, and this royal navy pursuing them, into that lower part of the Levels, called Thorne Mere, and there being up to their very necks in water, their horned heads raised seemed to represent a little wood, and there being encompassed about with the little fleet, some ventured amongst them, and feeling such and such as were fattest, they immediately cut their throats, and threw them up into the boats, or else tying a strong rope to their heads, drew them to land and killed them. Having thus taken several, they returned in triumph with their boats to land, and the prince dined with R. Portington, esquire, and was very merry and well pleased at his day's work. But longing to be at York, he came that night unto Hatfield, and lodged there; and there being attended with all the gentlemen that the country could on a sudden afford, they waited on him at Doncaster, and there taking their leaves returned home."

Robert Portington, of Tudworth, had originally

but little property, until the death of Sir Roger Portington, of or near Leeds, who left his whole estate to the disposal of his wife, amounting to £1,600 a year; they having no issue, she left it to this same Roger Portington, of Tudworth, because he was her husband's double namesake, though not at all related. Soon after this he went to reside at the manor hall, Hatfield, and lived there until the breaking out of the civil war, in which he took the king's part, was a captain, raised and maintained a troop at his own cost; till at last, having spent above £9,000, he was taken prisoner, and sent to London, where they made him pay £1,890 more, as a composition for his estate, and kept him in prison eleven years, until the king's return; after which, he lived at Barnby-upon-Dun, and there died, and was buried. As for his estate, what was left, he bequeathed it to his wife, for her life, and after her decease, to the Portingtons, of Portington, to whom, Pryme says, "I think it went long ago, and is now almost spent."

ROBERT PORTINGTON,

Second brother to the above Roger Portington, was major in Sir William Savill's regiment, was a valiant soldier, plundered the isle of Axholme, was in the fight at Willoughby, there taken prisoner, and sent to Hull, where he lay till the king was restored; and then coming over Booth ferry, or, as others say, Whitgift, he there received in his hand the slight bite of an ape, that was by chance in the boat, which gangrened, and shortly after carried him to the grave.

HENRY PORTINGTON,

The great royalist, was the son of Robert Portington, esq. of Staynford, and nephew to the aforesaid Roger and Robert ; and dying without issue, left what he had to a brother, named William, who had a son, named Henry, who spent all.

“ All this I took some years ago, from ———, before he died.”—Extract, Pryme’s Diary.

ROBERT PORTINGTON,

A descendant of the ancient family of the Portingtons, of Portington, in the county of York, had a considerable estate at Barnby-upon-Dun, which came by his marriage with Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of Robert Paslewe, of that place. His descendants, for several generations, possessed the estate, and a maiden lady of that family who died about the year 1798, was supposed to be the last of the family. However, just after her decease, a person of the name of Portington, arrived at Barnby-upon-Dun, to claim the property. He went into the church, and exultingly produced his coat of arms (gules on a bend sable, three cornish coughs proper) which he averred were exactly the same as those upon Roger Portington’s monument. The clerk of the parish, a rough Yorkshire man, said, “ Noa, noa, maister, but they ben’t, for yowre craws ha’ white legs, and these ha’ red ones.” From this and other circumstances, unable to make good his claim, he left the town ; and the Portington estate was divided between a person of the name of Addy and two sisters of that of Vincent, related to the Portington family.

THE FAMILY OF DE LA PRYME.

The ancient family of De la Pryme is of continental origin. One branch possessed a chateau and considerable domain near Paderborn, in Hesse Cassel, where they lived during the seven years war. The other resided at Ypres, in French Flanders; and two of them remained there at a late period. The name leaves no doubt that the latter is the original. A pedigree still in existence traces an honourable lineage to the year 1100: from this it appears, that some of them had been seized with the madness of the times, and went to the Holy Land with the crusades; their descendants, however, paid less deference to the papal authority, and had embraced the reformed religion in the sixteenth century. The situation of its adherents, throughout the French dominions, had never been very safe or comfortable; but during the war that Richelieu renewed against them, and the desperate, though hopeless, resistance at Rochelle, it became every day more hazardous and distressing. At this time zeal for their faith had reduced many to the sad alternative of preferring, at least for a time, their religion to their country. Among these was Charles de la Pryme, who, with his family, came over to England about 1628, and joined with Sir C. Vermuyden and others of their countrymen, in draining the fens, of Hatfield chase; the knowledge derived from the similar situation of their own country, rendered them peculiarly qualified for such an undertaking. But, either through the disadvantageous terms of the contract, or unexpected

difficulties in executing it, "most of them were undone; and Charles de la Pryme lost many hundreds of pounds by it."* When he died is uncertain. He left two sons; of Abraham nothing more is known than that he died July 23, 1687, and was according to the account of his nephew, "an honest, learned, pious, wise, and understanding man." Mathias, the other, was born the 31st of August 1645, and married, in April 1670, Sarah, daughter of Peter Smaque, "a rich Frenchman, who, with his whole family, were forced from Paris by persecution for his faith, and who came to live in these levels." In 1680 he removed to Crowtrees hall,† a large house built in the levels by Mynheer Van Valkenbroch, one of the original drainers, where the family continued to reside till they quitted this part of the country. Mathias died the 29th of July 1694; from his epitaph, in which he is named Matthew, it might be supposed he was born at Ypres, the ambiguous expression may be accounted for by the natural attachment those emigrants long cherished to the place of their origin, and some idea of return. The French and Dutch languages were preserved among them, for at least two generations. And the De la Prymes retained an estate in Flanders, which, after the revocation of the edict of Nantz, one of the family, who went over for that purpose, endeavoured unsuccessfully to recover.

* Abraham de la Pryme's Diary of his own Life, tom. 1. p. 1.

† In the hall of this house divine service was performed, previously to the building of the chapel at Sandtoft.

Abraham, the eldest son of Mathias, was born the 15th of January, 1671, not at Hull, (as Tickill in his history of that place gratuitously supposes,) but at his father's residence, about half way between Epworth and Hatfield. His literary eminence may, perhaps, render a more detailed account of his life not uninteresting. When only ten or twelve years old he began to write what he calls "*Ephemeris vitæ, or A Diary of my own Life*, containing an account, likewise, of the most observable and remarkable things that I have taken notice of from my youth up hitherto." The MS. which is in two volumes folio, is imperfect in many places, and especially at the end; it contains, however, ample and authentic materials, continued to within two years of his death.

Of his early education nothing appears, but that insatiable eagerness after knowledge, which he ever manifested. His father, who still leaned to the presbyterian tenets of the Huguenots, wished to have sent him to the university of Glasgow; Abraham, who inclined to high-church principles, gained, with difficulty, a victory in favour of Cambridge; where he was admitted at St. John's college, in April 1690. In addition to the usual classical and philosophical studies, he applied himself to natural history, chemistry, and (what in the present age must be read with a smile) magic. The ardent curiosity and inexperience of young minds, made them yield easily to the superstition of the times; it seems to have been then common among the more learned and courageous students, nor were even several of the

Fellows of the college superior to these delusions. Abraham, with some of his friends, made several attempts to hold intercourse with the world unknown, and expresses his mortification, "That nothing appeared *quamvis omnia rite peracta.*" His mind however, soon became emancipated from every species of superstition ; and, on a future occasion, he took considerable pains to expose the improbability of preternatural appearances. The utility of forming more systematic and well-directed plans of study induced him, in 1692, to begin a work which he calls "Directions for Travelling ; and Queries about what is Memorable in all Countries." In January 1694, he took the degree of B. A. and returned to Hatfield in March ; but finding that learning was not so much esteemed there as he expected, he went back to Cambridge in July, and occupied himself in composing a volume which he entitles, "Curiosa de se ; or, Private Thoughts of one inquisitive into the Knowledge of Nature and Things." Both these works have probably been destroyed : he resided there till he was ordained deacon in the following winter. In June, 1695, he took the curacy of Broughton, near Brigg, in Lincolnshire, where he devoted himself to exploring the Roman and British antiquities with which that neighbourhood abounded. His diary contains a detailed account of these researches, some of which are published in the Philosophical Transactions. Having exhausted every thing of this nature that the country afforded, about the end of 1696 he came to live at Hatfield, "the

better to carry on his history of that place,"* where he describes himself as "so exceedingly busy in old deeds and charters, which they send me in on every side, that I cannot take time to think or write of any thing else."

Having nearly completed it, the divinity readership of the High-Church at Hull was offered to him. This office is a kind of perpetual curacy, independent of the vicar. "It being my fate," says he, "to stay commonly no longer in one place than till I have gotten the antiquities thereof, and the view of what MSS. and old deeds I can meet with, and having heard that there were several at Hull, which would be very acceptable to me, I removed thither," in September 1698. He soon went to York to take priests' orders: the archbishop, Dr. Sharp, who had seen a table of contents of his History of Hatfield, expressed great approbation, with promises of patronage; Dr. Gale, the celebrated antiquary, then dean of that cathedral, having also seen the same, expressed a great desire to be acquainted with him. An interview accordingly took place, and they continued ever afterwards, in frequent correspondence and strong friendship,

But his attention was now drawn away from all his former studies by a religious imposture, which seems to have been deemed of great importance: "There is at present," says he, "great noise in the country, and many virulent books written, about one

* This is now in the British Museum, with his other works, but all are mutilated and imperfect.

Dugdale, of Surry, in Lancashire, who pretended formerly to be possessed ; and the presbyterians pretend that they, after a great many prayers and fastings, cast the devil out." He immediately entered into a correspondence with the Rev. Zachary Taylor, of Wigan, who had published a tract on the subject, and some theological works.

The following are extracts from De la Pryme's letters to him: " Being moved by your example and my own duty, I have drawn up a letter, consisting of several sheets, demonstrating the cessation of miracles ; the nullity of demoniacs under the established state of the gospel ; the palpableness of the cheat at Surry, &c. several copies of which are already gone out of my hands." October 25 1698. From one of these it was afterwards surreptitiously published.—" I cannot but wonder, sometimes, at the fate of writers. Just as this very business has called you from other weighty studies, even so has it happened to me : it being, in my eyes likely, to do more mischief ; not only among the mob, but also among others that were superficially learned, and cannot penetrate into the depth of the design, so that I flung by my History and Antiquities of Hatfield ; my History and Antiquities of Jerusalem, from its first building unto this day ; my Introduction to the Excellent Knowledge and Study of Antiquities ; my Origin of Nations and Languages : some almost finished." November 25, 1698.

He soon however resumed his former pursuits with increased eagerness. " After viewing, metho-

dizing, &c. the old records of Hull," he completed, during his residence there, "The History and Antiquities of that town, and the six or seven villages in the county thereof." The History of Headon, and other works on the Topography of Yorkshire, mentioned by Gough, except the History of Hatfield, seem, from his diary, to be only collections and memoranda on these subjects.

Some of his papers, which had found their way into the Philosophical Transactions, induced Sir Hans Sloane to enter into a correspondence with him on subjects of natural history, and particularly marine petrefactions. This led him to attempt a solution of their phenomenæ, and of the Noachian deluge; which was inserted in that work, and is quoted with approbation by Dr. Watson, Bishop of Landaff.*

Having now gathered and gotten all the antiquities relating to "Hull and its neighbourhood," as usual, "he began to grow somewhat weary thereof," and anxious to obtain some preferment, that he might retire from the hurry and laborious duty of his large parish. The state of his finances was a still more cogent reason. His father had indeed been dead some time, and had left him an estate at Hatfield, and another in Lincolnshire; which, with the emoluments of his cure, produced a handsome income. But his tours in every direction, and the expenses his studies led him into, involved him in embarrass-

* Discourse to the Clergy of Archdeaconry of Ely, May 1780, published in Watson's Sermons and Tracts, 8vo.

ments: "My zeal," says he, "for old MSS. antiquities, coins and monuments, almost eats me up; so that I am sometimes nearly melancholy, that I cannot prosecute the search of them so much as I would. I am at very great charges in carrying on my study of antiquities in employing persons at London, Oxford, &c. to search records, &c. even to the danger and hazard of my own ruin, and the casting of myself into great debts and melancholy."* The archbishop, though frequently reminded by De la Pryme's zealous friend, Dr. Gale, rewarded him only with specious promises and empty praise. The corporation of Hull, however, who seemed better judges, or at least better patrons, of literary merit, exerted themselves most strenuously in his behalf; and in the latter end of 1701, obtained for him the living of Thorne, a donative in the gift of the duke of Devonshire. About the same time he was elected Fellow of the Royal Society, an honour then bestowed more sparingly and discretely than at present. He did not long enjoy these acquisitions: a consumption, occasioned probably by too intense study, is said to have put a period to his useful labours, June 13, 1704. He was never married; nor does it appear that his studies ever allowed him leisure to be in love.

It may, at first sight, appear, that a man is not the best delineator of his own character. Yet, in a circumstantial narrative of his life, and an extensive

* Letters to Dr. Gale.

correspondence, he must inevitably and unintentionally expose a variety of traits and sentiments, from which others may form an accurate estimate. These sources of information shew that the praise of his epitaph was not undeserved. They manifest genuine and fervent piety ; great purity and simplicity of heart ; warmth and sincerity in friendship ; unassuming manners and singular modesty. He entered into the church from disinterested attachment ; amid the attractions of other pursuits, he always devoted much time to theology, paid unremitting attention to his clerical duties, which, at Hull, were extremely laborious. It must be acknowledged that he seems to feel some bitterness towards different religious persuasions ; yet we should make allowance for the general intolerance of those less enlightened times : and recollect that the danger of that establishment he so zealously admired, was then not imaginary. The presbyterians, who had once overturned it, as well as the catholics, were each striving to establish their own in its stead. He embraced the high-church and tory principles, and at one time adhered to the Stuart cause, but soon was convinced of his error ; yet he never much liked the government of William, which seems, from his account, to have been more unpopular than is generally supposed.

He possessed an acute discriminating judgement, and an ardent mind ; great ingenuity and quickness of apprehension, without much genius or imagination. His poetry does not rise above mediocrity ; but his

habits of cautious research, and patient industry, peculiarly fitted him for the other departments of literature he pursued. That his celebrity has been greatly inferior to his deserts arises from two causes ; first, the publication of his larger works (which he perpetually deferred in hopes of rendering them more complete,) has never taken place. Secondly, natural history and chemistry were then so completely in their infancy, that the essays of these times and among them his papers in the Philosophical Transactions, have been nearly superseded by recent discoveries and more improved systems. Yet justice requires us, while we admire the modern superstructure, not to forget the merits of those who laid the early foundations ; or, by unsuccessful attempts, shewed what parts of them were unsound. What was right, formed the ground work of what has been since done more accurately and completely : what was wrong, by narrowing the limits of conjecture, contributed to the discoveries of those, who might otherwise have been occupied like them, in imperfect researches and in deducing erroneous theories.

His diary is written with considerable *naivete*, in a stile neat and perspicuous, without any attempt at elegance. It contains, besides his antiquarian and topographical memoranda, much information on the state of the country. It abounds with satirical pieces on the leading parties of the day ; with illustrations and anecdotes of the manners, politics, and history of his own times ; and also of the civil wars, which

he had collected from actors in these disturbed scenes.*

The following is on a tablet erected to his memory, in Hatfield church.

“ Here lies all that was mortal of Abraham de la Pryme, F. R. S. minister of Thorne, in the county of York, son of Matthew de la Pryme, and Sarah, his mournful relict. He died June 13, 1704, aged 34.

‘Tho’ snatch’d away in youth’s fresh bloom,
Say not that he untimely fell,
He nothing ow’d the years to come,
And all that past was fair and well:
A painful priest, a faithful friend,
A virtuous soul, a candid breast,
Useful his life, and calm his end,
He now enjoys eternal rest.”

Some further particulars of the descendants of the Pryme family, may be found in Peck’s work, as stated below ; but as they are unconnected with the history of Thorne, the insertion of them here seems unnecessary.

SECTION V.

THE PRESENT STATE OF THORNE.

THORNE is in the West Riding of the county of York, and in the lower division of the Wapentake of Stafforth and Tickhill. It is 29 miles south by east from York, 163 north by north from London, 6 miles from Crowle, $7\frac{1}{2}$ from Snaith, 10 from Doncaster, $13\frac{1}{2}$ from Howden, and 14 from Bawtry.

* From Peck’s Supplement to the Topographical Account of Bawtry and Thorne, and compiled for that work by George Pryme, esq. of Barnwell Abbey, near Cambridge.

The town is partly seated on the south-west side of a small elevation, and the other part on the edge of an extensive plain, which stretches for many miles in every direction, until it is lost in light woods, or bounded by the faint blue hills that skirt the distant horizon; and although there is nothing strikingly bold or romantic to boast of in the surrounding scenery, yet the heart of the observer must be insensible to the mild beauties of nature, who can look with indifference on such an expanse of luxuriance and verdure, as is here extended on every side. Perhaps there are few situations where trees and hawthorn hedge rows assume a more thriving or vigorous appearance. By some the country around is termed "flat and monotonous," yet there are views, from different situations about the town, that are both extensive and interesting, although they are not at all calculated to suit the taste or disposition of such as would adopt the following sentiments,

"England, thy beauties are tame and domestic,
For me, who have roam'd o'er the mountains afar,
Give me the rock that is bold and majestic,
The high frowning summits of dark Loch na Gar."

BYRON.

The cutting of the Stainforth and Keadby Canal, and the inclosure of the commons, "have contributed much to the prosperity of Thorne, which is now one of the most thriving towns in the riding, inhabited by an active and industrious population, and containing, according to the last census, 3,463 inhabitants, at the town, the quay, and the few houses inhabited by agriculturalists around."*

* Hunter's History of the Deanery of Doncaster.

POPULATION.

In 1801, the population was stated at 2,655, but by the census of 1811, there then appeared to be 635 houses, 2,713 inhabitants, viz. 1,219 males, and 1,494 females; and in 1821, the population was 3,463. Since that time to the present year, 1829, both the number of houses and that of the inhabitants has considerably increased; of the latter there are now supposed to be about 4,000.

LONG ROOM.

A part of the building forming the Red Lion Inn, was purchased for the use of the town in 1818; it consists of three stories, the two upper ones are at present let to the proprietor of the inn, and the lower one, a neat and spacious room, known by the above title, is reserved for public meetings, for the use of the magistrates, who meet here at short intervals, to transact any local business that may be brought before them; and is also occupied as a Sunday school. It is kept in good order, and being situated near the market-place, is a great convenience to the inhabitants, who before they became possessed of this room, had no place in which to meet on public occasions, except the vestry of the church.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

There are two endowed schools; one of these is supported out of two farms, situated on the Levels, which contain 379 acres; one in the Seve-ralls, containing 179 acres, and the other, in Wroot-jort Carr, 200 acres; they are rented by Mr. Richard Kitching and Mr. William Jacques; part

of the rents go this school, and the remaining part to two similar establishments, one at Hatfield, and another at Wroot, with a provision for supplying the scholars with bibles, testaments, prayer books, and the Whole Duty of Man. This was the bequest of a person of the name of Travis, and is usually called "Travis's Charity."

The other is called Brooke's Charity; the following is a copy of the donor's surrender;

"Dec. 18, 1704, William Brooke, of Thorne, tanner, by the hands of William Darling, surrenders, houses and lands as follows: To the use and behoof of Edward Forster, gent. Thomas Canby, jun. gent. William Darling, Benjamin Cutts, Richard Middlebrooke, and Thomas Johnson, and their heirs and assigns for ever, according to the custom of the manor aforesaid, nevertheless to and for the several trusts, intents, and purposes, that they the said Edward Forster, Thomas Canby, William Darling, Benjamin Cutts, Richard Middlebrooke, and Thomas Johnson, their heirs and assigns, and the survivor or survivors of them, and the heirs or assigns of such survivor or survivors for ever, shall yearly and every year from time to time, and at all times hereafter for ever, lay out and employ, and yearly bestow and pay, the whole clear rents and profits arising out of the said land and premises, and every part and parcel thereof, to and for the use, and to the perpetual maintenance and support of one able, sober, learned, and sufficient schoolmaster, in the town of Thorne aforesaid, for the teaching and instructing of such chil-

dren as shall from time to time come to the said school at Thorne, to be taught, but not as a free school; provided always, and upon condition, that every such schoolmaster, from time to time, for ever hereafter, so long as he shall or do continue schoolmaster there, and receive the rents, issues, and profits of the forementioned premises, shall yearly, and every year, teach and instruct ten of the poorest boys within the said town of Thorne, as shall from time to time be chosen by the minister and trustees, or any three of them, whereof the minister be one, freely, without requiring any stipend or reward for the same, according to the true intent and good meaning hereof."

The following are the lands bequeathed by the said William Brooke, taken from a tablet in the vestry.

True Love, Croft.

One acre, in Kirton Croft.

Three ditto, in Sea Dyke Bank.

One messuage, late Steer's, and some land.

One acre, and part of a Toft, near Common Trod.

Two roods near Bromsley.

One ditto, in Bell Lane.

One ditto, in Houpe.

Three ditto, ditto.

Two ditto, in Bloomgate.

One ditto, ditto.

One ditto, in Gool.

Two ditto, in Bully Trees.

Three ditto, ditto.

Two ditto, in Old Inggs.

One acre, Tween Bridge Moors.

One acre, one rood, Chadwick Dyke.

One acre, one rood, Spring Spurn,

Four acres, one rood, Old Inggs.

H. Travis, gent. gave, 5th July, 1710, £15, out of several farms in Hatfield, Thorne, and Wroot. The revenue is now worth more than £100 a year.—PECK.

MARKETS.

A market for provisions, &c. has been held weekly at Thorne, since the year 1659; on which Hunter, in his History of the Deanery of Doncaster, remarks, "That the recent conversion of the country around, from an open and waste to an inclosed and cultivated state, rendered the establishment of a market somewhere in this district a measure of obvious consequence; and this probably contributed in no small degree to maintain for Thorne, that superiority in population and commercial importance, which it had early obtained among the towns of the level." It was not, however, until the first Wednesday in March, 1818, by the active exertions of several spirited individuals, that this market was opened for the sale of corn; from, which time the increase and improvement of the town has been more decidedly apparent.

The following notice was circulated previously to the opening of the market.

Corn Market, at Thorne.—We, the undersigned Proprietors of Lands and Farms, in Thorne and the surrounding Country, taking into consideration the

excellent situation of the said Town for a Corn Market, both from the exemption of its Market from Tolls, from the advantages of its Conveyance by Water to all parts of the Country, and also from its being in the centre of a great District, the most abundant in all kinds of Grain, Do resolve and engage to commence on the first Wednesday in March, and so to continue on each succeeding Wednesday, to expose for Sale in open Market, considerable quantities of Corn, at favourable prices, and cheaper than had we carried it, as before to Doncaster and other distant Markets,

John Coulman, Levels	Peter Bayes, ditto
Richard Coulman, ditto	John Marshal, Tudworth
William Coulman, ditto	John Bladworth, Stainforth
Richard Kitching, ditto	William Marsdin, ditto
George Kitching, ditto	Thomas Kilham, ditto
John Whitaker, ditto	Thomas Simpson, ditto
Michael Askron, ditto	Edmund Godfrey, ditto
John Harnew, jun. ditto	Josias Durham, Hatfield
John Marsdin, ditto	Samuel Woodall, ditto
William Milman, ditto	William Fletcher, ditto
Richard Jennings, ditto	John Chadburn, ditto
William Rhodes, ditto	Thomas Outwin, ditto
William Jaques, ditto	Robert Morris, ditto
Richard Winter, ditto	John Axe, ditto
Thomas Jennings, ditto	John Reasbeck, ditto
Peter East, ditto	John Woodyere, ditto
Christopher Vause, ditto	John Goodworth, ditto
John Winter, ditto	R. Pullein, ditto
William Cawkwell, ditto	Robert Eardley, ditto
Joshua Smeaton, ditto	Robert Brooke, ditto
George Moore, ditto	John Lyal, ditto
Isaac Oldfield, ditto	William Oliver, ditto
Marmaduke Scholey, do.	John Oliver, ditto

R. P. Milnes Thorne	Wm. Dobson, ditto
Henry Godfrey, ditto	Wm. Kilham, ditto
William Pilkington, do.	Robert Battey, ditto
Richard Pearson, Thorne	Wm. Ramsey, ditto
Wm Makins, ditto	Joshua Moor, ditto
Wm. Darley, ditto	Thos. Chester, Huggin
Robert Darley, ditto	John Walker, Park Lane
M. Casson, ditto,	George Outwin, Parks
M. Casson, jun. ditto	T. Sanderson, Dunscroft
Thos. Brown, ditto	Thos. Smith, ditto
John Benson, ditto	Wm. Milman, Ditchmarsh
Wm. Beckitt, ditto	Charles Walker, ditto
R. Middlebrooke, ditto	Thomas Athy, Hadds
John Wyatt, ditto	Thomas Best, ditto
T. Fretwell, ditto	Wm. Priestley, Bankside
B. Hutchinson, ditto	John Priestley, jun. ditto
Thos. Vause, ditto	Henlock Young, ditto
B. England, ditto	John Cutler, Moorends
R. England, ditto	J. Foxton, ditto
S. Ainley, ditto	John Bramley, ditto
W. Dove, ditto	George Airy, ditto
John Wade, ditto	Francis Eadon, Snaith
Wm. Standerling, ditto	Robt. Denby, ditto
Thos. Watson, ditto	Wm. Hankses, ditto
George Kemp, ditto	Wm. Dickenson, ditto
John Wells, ditto	Thos. Townrow, ditto
Richard Wraith, ditto	Richard Sykes, jun. Cowick
John Bleasby, ditto	Peter Denby, ditto
Thomas Brears, ditto	John Rhodes, ditto
John Butterwick, ditto	Robt. Scothorp, ditto
John Watson, ditto	Wm. Dixon, ditto
John Ridgill, ditto	Wm. Beachell, Rawcliffe
Thomas Barley, ditto	John Boulton, ditto
H. Benson, Hatfield	Joshua Tingle, ditto
Woodhouse	Wm. Stennitt, ditto
Wm. Johnson, ditto	John Walker, ditto
Thomas Hooton, ditto	John Waller, ditto

Wm. Barker, ditto	John Crosby, Epworth
Wm. Ellis, ditto	John Brunyee, ditto
John Brooks, ditto	Wm. Wainwright, Crowle
Wm. Ranfield ditto	Joseph Birks, Fishlake
Thomas Walker, ditto	John Hunt, ditto
Thos. Sykes, Rawcliffe	William Newburn, ditto
Common	Hugh Rowbotham, ditto
John Priestley, ditto	John Johnson, ditto
H. Fenwick ditto	David Box, ditto
Thomas Chantry, ditto	John Bedford Fenwick
Anthony Crosland, ditto	Grange
G. Smith, Airmin, Pastures	John Lilleman, Sykehouse
William Wade, ditto	John Hobson, ditto
John Chantry, ditto	Thomas Ainley, ditto
J. Earnshaw, Goole	Thomas Barker, ditto
J. Empson, ditto	John Bunby, ditto
John Birks, ditto	Richard Backhouse ditto
William Clark, ditto	Thomas Himsworth, ditto
John Stanuell, ditto	Paul Holme ditto
T. Duckles, ditto	George Howcroft, ditto
Thomas Thompson,	John Imeson, ditto
Goolefield Houses	John Kay, ditto
Dennis Pepper, ditto	Samuel Kay, ditto
Robert Shores, ditto	John Nettleton, ditto
R. Duckles, Hook	John Pearson, ditto
Gervase Seaton, Swinefleet	William Sayle, ditto
Robert Vickers, ditto	George Smith, ditto
Samuel Laverack, ditto	Thomas Turner ditto
J. Little, Swinefleet	George Ward, ditto
George Birkenshaw, ditto	Wheatley Wood, ditto
J. Clarke, ditto	Joseph Wood, ditto
William Parker, ditto	Richard Himsworth, ditto
William Middlebrooke, do	Benj. Ellison, Foster
John Jackson, Waterton	Houses
Hall	Thomas Hall, ditto
Thomas Harsley, Crowle	Matthew Amery, ditto
John Read, ditto	John Thorp, ditto,

Wid. Wates, ditto	Richard Gray, ditto
John Carr, Wormley Hill	John Hollin, ditto
John Harrison, ditto	Henry Jubb, Westfield

Together with the lesser farmers in the same districts.

Jan. 20, 1818.

This document is well worth preserving, as it not only shews who were the promised supporters of the market, but also records the names of many of the most respectable farmers in the neighbourhood.

When the above notice was signed, a subscription was entered into, to defray the expense of repaving part of the market-place, and for the erection of posts, to point out the situation where the different qualities of grain were pitched, and to cover other incidental expenses that might arise, such as advertising the opening of the market for corn, &c. A waggon belonging to an eccentric old gentleman of Rawcliffe, of the name of Hirst, was the first that came into the town loaded with corn, for that day's market; and on this occasion the driver was treated with "his dinner and a tankard of stout ale," with which he seemed highly gratified.

The bells were rung merrily on the occasion, a band of music paraded the streets, the town was thronged with people, a new impulse was given to business, and fresh energy and exhilaration of spirits seemed to pervade every individual connected with it.

The anniversary of the opening of the corn market is still regularly observed, and a numerous

party of gentlemen and farmers interested in its prosperity, regularly meet at the Red Lion Inn, to celebrate its return, on which occasion a lamb has always been provided.

In recording these proceedings, William Guest, an old veteran, must not pass unnoticed; he had previously been presented with a new livery, and was appointed to the office of summoning the market at eleven, and announcing its close at one o'clock, by ringing a bell. This office is still discharged by the same individual, who also takes care of any sacks of corn that may inadvertently be left after the market. Since that time he has generally presented a petition to the gentlemen at the market table, and others, on the anniversary of its opening, when a collection has been made, to reward him for his services, or to purchase a new livery, when the old one has become unserviceable. In the present year, 1829, a thorough new suit has been provided for this officer: the livery is a blue coat and waistcoat, faced with scarlet, scarlet cuffs and collar, and gold buckle and girdle for his hat.

The markets are held on Wednesday; they are plentifully supplied with corn, provisions, pottery ware, and a variety of other articles; and a good deal of business is transacted. The pig market is held within the entrance of the Blue Boar yard, in which pens are placed for the convenience of those who attend it.

FAIRS.

Two fairs or marts are annually held here, on

the first Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday after the 11th of June, and 11th of October. Tuesday is the day on which the horned cattle, horses, and sheep are shewn. Of the former there is generally a large collection; and the number of horses and sheep shewn at these fairs of late, has been considerably larger than used formerly to be the case.

BRIDGES.

Of these very little can be said, except mentioning their number, names and situations. The canal bridge, which is situated at the western entrance of the town, is a wooden structure, that turns upon a pivot, and thus affords a passage for vessels, on the line of the canal, without the necessity of having their masts lowered. A stone bridge* built over the boating dyke in 1756, was taken down a few years ago, and the present structure erected in its place. This bridge is considerably wider than the old one; the street, also, leading to the town was at the time the bridge was re-built, widened, and considerably improved.

The School-house Bridge is another erection over the boating dike; it is situated north of the former, and was built mostly of brick in the year 1813, but is now in a very ruinous state, with its battlements thrown nearly down. The Tempernacre Bridge, erected in 1817, is composed mostly of brick, and is situated to the south of the stone

* In the rebellion in 1745, a company of soldiers were stationed to guard this entrance to the town. The bridge over the boating dike was then a wood erection.

bridge. The three last named bridges occupy the sites of old wooden erections.

THE PRISON

The prison or jail, is situated in the field near the church, it was adapted to the purpose for which it is at present used, by forming two cells in the centre of some cottages belonging to the town, with materials spared in the alteration of the stone bridge, and by erecting a porch in front of the cells as a day room. Prisoners are seldom confined in it longer than a few days. The cells are kept clean, they are furnished with iron bedsteads, and the prison is considered very secure. Although this building does not display a very elegant exterior, it answers all the purposes for which it was designed, while the economy displayed in its formation, might afford a useful lesson to those modern jail builders, who lavish enormous sums of public money, which has been extracted from the pockets of the honest and industrious, in erecting sumptuous structures, in which are to be immured the murderer, the thief, and the breaker of every moral law; while at the same time, many who have been reduced by misfortune to misery and want, are suffered to wander houseless and unprotected. Can these magnificent buildings be expected to present to the eye of the stranger, or to hand down to posterity any thing but a proof of the extent of crime, and the weakness and folly of those concerned in their erection?

THE WESLEYAN METHODIST CHAPEL.

This Chapel, which is a neat brick building, with stone basement and cornice, is situated in King-street, and was opened for public worship in 1826.

THE BETHESDA CHAPEL.

The New Connexion of Methodists have also lately erected a new and convenient place of worship, adjoining Chapel-lane ; it was opened in 1817.

THE FRIENDS' MEETING HOUSE

Is the oldest dissenting meeting house in the town, it is situated up a passage leading from the Church-lane, and has a small neat burying ground attached to it. The outside of this building looks old and weather beaten, but the interior has been within a few years considerably altered and improved ; it was erected about the year 1750.

THE PRIMITIVE METHODISTS' CHAPEL,

Is a small chapel situated backward from the Green, it was opened for public worship in 1822.

THE UNITARIAN CHAPEL

Is situated at the foot of School-house bridge ; a small stone in front bears the date of its erection in 1816. Adjoining to this chapel there is a convenient school-room, and also a small burial ground.

THE EBENEZER CHAPEL.

This Chapel belonging to the Independents or Calvinists, is erected in a yard opening into the Church-lane. [It is built of brick, and tiled, the exterior presents nothing striking, but the interior is neat and convenient ; this place for public worship was opened in 1800.

A few of the followers of Johanna Southcot, still meet in the town, at the house of one of their sect ; they have no chapel.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

There are five of these Schools, at which children

are gratuitously instructed, and most of them are numerously attended.

The one belonging to the establishment is taught by the master of the free school, in a room belonging to one of the charities.

The scholars of the Wesleyan Methodists meet in the Long-room.

Those of the new connexion of Methodists in the Bethesda chapel, Chapel-lane.

The Calvinists teach their school in the Ebenezer chapel.

The Unitarian sunday school is taught in the school-room adjoining their chapel.

THE POOR HOUSE

Is a large brick building, erected in the year 1763, as appears by large iron letters placed on the front of it.

Parents, who know no children's love, dwell there ;
Heart broken matrons on their joyless bed,
Forsaken wives, and mothers never wed ;
Dejected widows, with unheeded tears,
And crippled age, with more than childhood's fears ;
The lame, the blind, and, far the happiest they,
The moping idiot, and the madman gay.—CRABBE.

The poor house is situated a short distance from the town ; the poor in it are comfortably provided for. Some years ago, part of them were employed in the manufacture of worsted ; but latterly they have had no regular indoor employment, except the customary one of preparing oakum. Some of the more able of the men are, however, employed in cutting straw for cattle, and in other farming occupations. A large and productive garden is attached

to the premises ; and there is also some land belonging to the town, on which the master of the house may keep two or three cows.

The paupers are at present provided for by contract ; and a committee of the gentlemen of the town is appointed to visit and inspect the house at indefinite periods, to examine the quantity and quality of food allowed to the inmates.

TRADE AND MANUFACTURES.

A considerable trade is carried on in shipping ; also in corn, timber, coals, and other commodities, which is greatly facilitated by numerous vessels on the line of the canal and the river Don, and by the introduction of steam packets.

On the bank of the river Don, at Thorne Quay, is a ship-builders' yard, at which vessels of considerable burthen are sometimes launched. Several large steam packets have also been constructed here ; they are generally considered good sea vessels, and have great speed ; a dry dock is attached to the yard.

There are also by the side of the canal, three other yards, at which vessels of 40, 50, and 60 tons burthen are built ; each of these yards is furnished with a capstan and slip, by means of which vessels can be drawn up out of the water to be repaired.

Some business is also done in the town in malting, and in the brewery of ale and porter. There are two places at which ropes are made ; two small sacking manufactories ; and one of hats : but as the inhabitants of the town are decidedly more inte-

rested in and acquainted with agricultural pursuits, than manufacturing speculations, small progress has been made in the introduction of such businesses as would require mechanical skill and local advantages to foster them.

THE WIKE WELL,

Is a public bath belonging to the town; it was encircled with a high wall about the year 1763. The spring inside is walled round and flagged, there is a descent of stone steps to it, and it has the accommodation of a dressing room, with a fire place in it; but from the intense coldness of the water, this bath is seldom used, and is now very much dilapidated and out of repair. The spring affords a plentiful supply of water, which is used by the people living in its neighbourhood for domestic purposes. It does not possess any medicinal properties; The water is, however, so much impregnated with mineral substances, as to be rendered very hard.

LIBRARY.

The establishment of a public library in the town had long been a desideratum with several of the inhabitants, who were fully sensible of the many advantages that might be derived, not only by themselves, but also by the rising generation, from a well selected collection of books. It was not, however, until the 20th of May, 1828, that a meeting was held, and a committee appointed for making the necessary arrangements, and for carrying so desirable an object into effect.

By the exertions of this committee, 57 subscribers were induced to support the institution, a convenient room was obtained in a central situation, as a depository for the books, and within the short space of eight months from the opening of the library, 500 volumes have been collected.

NEWS ROOM.

Several gentlemen, subscribers to the above institution, having expressed a wish that they might be allowed the privilege of introducing some of the public journals into the library, the room has, since Feb. 1829, been furnished with the following newspapers, viz. the *Times*, the *Observer*, and the *Farmer's Journal*, London; the *Doncaster Gazette*, the *Hull Packet*, the *Leeds Mercury*, and the *Liverpool Mercury*.

THE HALL,

Is a good family mansion, the property of Henry Ellison, Esq., but at present it is unoccupied. To the house is attached a large well-walled garden, hot-houses, lawn, and shrubberies; and there are convenient stabling, coach houses, &c. at a short distance from the hall.

ROADS.

An act was obtained in 1793, for forming a turnpike road from Bawtry to Selby, through Thorne; which road is now much frequented, being a nearer and easier route from Bawtry to York, than the great north road by way of Doncaster. The Edinburgh mail travelled on this road for some time,

but by the powerful interest of the resident gentry and proprietors on the old line, it was taken off, and a side, or bye-mail, from Doncaster to York, substituted in its stead, which meets with good encouragement.

Previously to the above road being made turnpike, it was difficult travelling through this part of the country, especially in winter or wet weather.*

An act was passed in the sixth year of the reign of his present majesty George IV. intituled, "An Act for making and maintaining a turnpike road from Doncaster through Hatfield to Baln Croft Barn, near Thorne, with one branch therefrom, in the county of York." This road is not yet completed, although an elegant lodge and a toll-gate have been erected upon it near Doncaster.

THE CANAL.

In 1793, an act was passed to make a navigable canal from Stainforth to Keadby, with one collateral cut from the same at Thorne common, to communicate with the river Don at Hangman Hill.

* There is an anecdote related of a gentleman, who had property in Lincolnshire, fully corroborating this statement. On a journey to visit his estates, this gentleman had to travel along the Level banks, at a time when they were scarcely passible; in his progress, he met with an old farmer who resided in the neighbourhood; and no doubt feeling the difficulty of his situation, thus accosted him, "Bad roads these, master; very bad roads indeed?" "Not so bad neither," the farmer shrewdly replied, "if a horse can get his foot out with one pull or two pulls, we'en call it middling, middling; but when it takes him three pulls to get it out, then we'en call it bad!" The gentleman, it may be supposed, smiled at the consolation afforded him, and got through the middling road as well as he could. These banks are now well gravelled, and in good repair.

The canal was completed and opened about the year 1797, but the collateral cut has never been begun. This canal is a great convenience to the town, and has enhanced the value of property in its vicinity very considerably; it also affords a greater facility of drainage to the lower lands. Should a contemplated communication be opened in a direct line from this canal, above Thorne lock, to the new cut from Goole to Knottingley, it would open an immediate and easy route for the conveyance of corn, wool, and other productions of Lincolnshire and the adjacent counties, to the centre of the manufacturing districts, and the markets of Leeds and Wakefield, without the risk and loss of time occasioned by the dangerous, and often tedious passage, for vessels, round Trent Fall and Goole.

THE INCLOSURE.

Hatfield Chase, formerly the largest in England, containing within its limits, 180,000* acres. A bounder and perambulation† of which was made and

* This includes part of the inclosed land, over which the regards of the chase claimed a right to follow the deer.

† The perambulation was performed by the regards of the chase, whose names follow.

Charles Wormley	Robert Dowell	John Storie
John Slifford	William Smith	John Banester
John West, major	John Parker	John Margrave
Richard Wrote	John Norwell	William Ridlington
Hugo Raney	William Smith	William Allatt
Robert Stones	Richard Dowing	Thomas Wyatt
William Atkinson	Edward Turre	John Butler
Thomas Basacle	John Tremingham	John Fairbarne

The regards aforementioned say that the common bounder of this Chase beginneth at one place called Dycon Dyke End, where there is one mere stone having one cross, and so betwixt the hard ground and the soft; and from thence to Holme Wathe, which

presented to a court held at Hatfield, 30th Henry VIII. pursuant to special instructions of Thomas

is commonly known and bounded with mere stones crossed in eight several places; and from the said wathe so going betwixt the hard ground and the soft, to the east of Holme House Close end; and so forth by the dykes of the closes of the said Holme House, to the west end of them; and so along by Holme wood side to Gonall Close Nook, and so by the dicke bank of Gonall Close to the west end of the same, to one place called Gonall Stile; and from thence by one old dike betwixt Wan Wayn and the soft ground; and so going up one dike to one place called Curston Well; and from thence by one old dike to the Parke Stile, otherwise called Park House Stile, and so by the close dike to the Park end; and so going north and west of the said Parke House close, to the Parke House end; and so going to the end of Doubleday Loyne, to one place called Smythe Green, and so to the water of Done, by the Grange close side; and from the north part of the said water going to one dike called Milne Dike, to the water of Done, going by Bramwith Marsh to Stainforth Ings, and so by the water to the said Loyne end near Stainforth; and so going by one dike, called Green dike, going betwixt the perishing of Fishlake upon the east part, and the perishing of Bramwych upon the west part, unto one place called Hell Wykked; and from thence by one place called Flaxley Carr End, to the Scurre Hills; and so by one sike called Scutte Sike, to Blandworth Field Dyke, between the perishing of Campsall; and so by Scutte Loyne to one place called Sante Pytte, and of the east end of Turne Hagge to the Parke dike; and so going by the Parke Dike to the land Erne towards the Stile dike, going by Scutte Croft and Dowester field to Went; and so going by Went to one place called Burgon Pitt, and so over the waste to Burton Church, to the west end of Eastoft moore dike, and so going by one syke, called Blake Syke, and so coming into the Black water, where the old Done runneth, and so going by Done, by one place called the White Wathe to the east side of Tokesletts; and so forth by Done to one place called Saunder Garth, and so to one mere stone, at Dyrtensskye, which lieth between the King his Ground, the earl of Derby's Ground, and the Abbot of Selby's Ground; and so down by Belton plain, and Heppes, to the Boythe, and to Samson Lodge, and from thence by Done betwixt Thorne Buskear and the north toftes into Idle; and so by Idle to Sandtoft Ferry, towards the water of Torne, and so by the said water to Wrootflete, to one place called God's Crosse; and from thence by one place called Priestflete, to the west end of Cowbridge; and so by the wood side to the stone in Woolestoke, and from thence by the herde ground and the soft to Nettleholme: and so going to the sound end of the dike: Whereas the King his keepers may go and fetch in his Grace's game, at all times into the herde ground; and so going

lord Cromwell, the lord privy seal, directed to Matthew Boynton, William Thwaites, esquires, and others.

The level of this chase, comprising 73,515 acres, being seized by king Charles I. a third part was by him granted to Sir Cornelius Vermuyden, for discharging, draining, and cultivating the whole; another third part was given to the inhabitants in lieu of their claims, and as common pasturage; and the remaining third part was reserved by the king.

Prior to 1811, there were in the several parishes and townships of Hatfield, Thorne, Stainforth, Fishlake, and Sykehouse, parcels of this common and uninclosed land, to the amount of 2,328 acres or thereabouts. The inhabitants of these parishes conceiving the great advantage and utility that would arise from the division and inclosure of so much nearly unproductive land, if brought into a proper state of cultivation, made application to parliament, and an act for inclosing these commons received the royal assent 11th of April, 1811; and in 1817, the lands in the several parishes were allotted to the proprietors.

The advantages that have arisen to the inhabitants from the inclosure, the increase of buildings in the town, and the improvement of the surrounding

to Haxey Yate to the west side of Mysterton Field, to Grinley Park Noke, and so to the water of Done at Wheteley, towards Weeland, going by the Water of Aire towards Rocliffe, and so to Aymin, and from thence to Swinfleet, and so by Whynes Gate into Tylehouse Kytte, and from thence to Eastoft More Dyke, &c. The meaning of the sides regards is that this should be nothing prejudicial to any gentleman's inheritance, but only for the hunting in of the King's Game.

country, must be perceptible to every one ; but to persons, who may have been acquainted with this district prior to the inclosure, and who afterwards have not visited Thorne until within a short period of the present time, these alterations and improvements appear more particularly striking.

SECTION VI.

THE TURF MOORS.

THE Turbary or Waste, comprising a tract of about six thousand eight hundred acres, is situated two miles east of the church, and is bounded on the south by the Stainforth and Keadby canal, from which it extends northward $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles, and its width in some parts is $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

A century ago the space covered by the morass was much greater than it is at present, a portion on every side having been cut yearly, and carried off for fuel.

Under the whole of this extensive morass, lie buried, oak, ash, fir, beech, yew, and willow trees, the remains of an immense forest, which appears to have covered at one period a large proportion of this part of the country. Abraham de la Pryme, appears to be the first writer, who ascertained, by personal observation, that a forest at one time grew where these morasses are now formed, (vide *Philosophical Transactions*, No. 275, p. 980,) and posterity have borne testimony to the accuracy of his observations. Every one, who is acquainted with the Roman or early British history, will perceive, with

what obstinacy the native tribes disputed every inch of ground with their Roman conquerors. Inaccessible hills, impassible morasses, and impenetrable woods, were generally their places of retreat; into these the Romans durst not attempt to follow them. Desultory warfare is a peculiar trait in the character of all uncivilized nations; unity of action and concentration of force are only to be found in the reformed state of modern tactics. Xiphiline, on the authority of Dion (lib. lxxxix, p. 866,) informs us, that the emperor Severus, during his reign in this country, complained of the difficulties, he, met with in his attempts to subdue the natives, and attributes the cause to their mode of fighting, and means of defence. It was their practice to take advantages of his advanced guard, on foraging parties, cut them off, and immediately retire into their fastnesses; which so enraged Severus, that he determined upon the destruction of their places of retreat, as far as was practicable; to accomplish which, he commenced with fire, and followed with sword and axe, and in this and the like undertakings, he had the mortification to find his ranks thinned of 50,000 of his men.

To this cause may be attributed the fall of the wood in question. The trees when uncovered from the peat, seem to have stood near to the places where they now lie, as the remaining stump and adjoining tree, where the axe has been employed, exactly correspond. Those trees, which owe their fall to the agency of fire, are not so easily identified, but

otherwise there are many remaining, especially of oak, fir, birch, yew, wirethorn, willow, and ash, the roots of all or most of which stand in the soil, in their natural postures, as close together as they could possibly grow.

These roots, when dug up, are now used, either for fuel or for fencing; when employed for the latter purpose, they have a truly rustic appearance, presenting various fantastic shapes, and they would, on that account, in some situations be highly prized. The oak roots are very durable.

Pryme says, in his paper before alluded to, "Oaks have been found 20, 30, and 35, yards long, yet wanting many yards at the small end; some of which have been sold for £4, £8, £10, and £15, a piece; which are as black as ebony, and very lasting and durable. The ash trees are as soft as earth, and are commonly cut in pieces by the work mens' spades, which as soon as flung up into the open air, fall away into dust; but all the rest, even the willows themselves, which are softer than the ash wood, preserve their substance and texture to this day;" and it may be added, to the present time, although it is now a century later than when the above remark was written.

He further adds, that Mr. Edward Canby* told him, he found an oak tree within his moors, 40 yards long, 4 yards in diameter at the great end, 3 yards and a foot in the middle, and two yards over at the

* The Canby family, according to a rental of 1712, held land both in Nun and Tweenbridge Moors; their residence was at the top of Jacob-lane.

small end ; (query, circumference) so that the tree seems to have been as long again ; for which he was offered £20. At another time, he found a fir tree 36 yards long, besides the computed length thereof, which well might be 15 yards more." The largest trees have no doubt been picked out for different purposes by the inhabitants for several generations past, yet there are men now living, who state, that they have split up more than a thousand pales, four feet in length, fit for park fencing, from a single tree, and that they have seen trees a yard in diameter, for a very considerable length, and as sound as if just cut down. Some of the firs too are so fresh and sound as to bear splitting into ceiling laths, for which purpose they have been not unfrequently used.

This extensive forest being thrown down, in nearly a level country, subject to floods, we may naturally suppose, would impede the little drainage that had before relieved it of the superabundant waters ; that being once stopped, the accumulation of vegetable matter would be very rapid, the branches and leaves of trees and other wreck, with aquatic plants, and moss, that gather on the stumps and branches of trees in moist situations, not covered by water, would soon shelter the main body of the trees from the action of the sun and air, the vegetation of one summer would be destroyed by the frost in winter ; the next spring produces a succeeding crop of morassy vegetation ; this is again destroyed ; until returning seasons have formed peat, to the height and consistency we at present find it. The production of peat

is at first rapid, but decreases in proportion as it advances above the level of the country, and the change in its solidity and vegetable production.

That the principal part of the wood had been thrown down at one time, appears evident, from the sound state in which the trees are generally found ; if they had fallen from natural decay, they would have been more decomposed ; if part only had been thrown down, those left standing, could never, after the peat began to accumulate, gain the horizontal position in which they now lie. And another proof of the correctness of the assertion may yet be adduced, if the trees were sound when thrown down, and afterwards exposed to the sun, wind, and air (as scarcely any are completely buried in the subsoil) they would have exhibited more evident signs of decay ; especially the less durable kinds ; but when we see the silvery bark of the birch, as bright as when just stripped from a living tree, firs quite enveloped in bark, acorns, hazel nuts, fir cones, hips, oak, and other leaves, we are led to suppose, that as soon almost as the forest was overthrown, the site must have been covered with water and by this means the wood, &c. preserved from decomposition and decay.

The peat is a substance composed of heath, moss, and various morassy plants, which have undergone but little disorganization, and are mixed with but a very small quantity of earthy matter. It is very combustible, and when submitted to the action of fire in an iron retort, produces gas capable of supporting

a clear white flame, tar, and an ammonical liquor ; the pipes through which turf gas has been passed, acquire a very peculiar smell, quite different from that emitted from coal gas, but not less pungent and offensive.

Peat possesses two very peculiar properties, besides its inflammability, viz. its antiseptic quality, and power of resisting water. So great is its antiseptic quality, that animal as well as vegetable substances may remain for years in it, without undergoing putrefaction. Anecdotes of the discovery of the remains of animals, are related in almost every place where peat abounds ; and there are a few instances of human subjects having been thus preserved from decomposition. " About 50 years ago," says Pryme, " at the bottom of a turf pit, was found a man laying at his length, with his head upon his arm, as in a common posture of sleep, whose skin being as it were tanned by the moor water, preserved his shape entire, but within, his flesh, and most of his bones, were consumed and gone ; an arm of whom is now in the possession of Dr. Nat. Johnson."

In June, 1747, the body of a woman was discovered six feet deep in a peat moor ; the antique sandals on her feet, shewed she had been buried for many ages. Her hair and nails were as fresh as any person's living ; her skin was soft, of a tawny colour, and stretched like a piece of doe leather, and was as strong*.

In the Times newspaper of Tuesday, the 5th of

* Phil. Trans. 1747, Vol. xlv. page 575

March, 1829, an account was given of the body of a man being found embedded in a bog in Ireland, which from his dress, being a cow's hide, it is supposed must have been buried a very great length of time.

Even the water found in the peat moors possesses this antiseptic quality. The existence of putrid water (however stagnant) is unknown in the peat districts; and the men who dig the turf, suppose that it is never injurious to them, even if they drink it cold, when they are heated with labour and covered with perspiration.

By means of an operation called warping, these peat moors may be converted into very productive land. This warping is an operation peculiar to the low lands, that lie in the neighbourhood of the rivers Don, Aire, Ouse, and Trent; and has been the means of effecting a very extensive and important amelioration of the soil within the whole of that district. The water of these rivers becomes extremely turbid on the rising of the tide, and as the matter which gives it this appearance, is found to consist of such a mixture of earthy and saline substances, as forms a most luxuriant soil, plans have been adopted to introduce the flood water upon the land, and cause it to deposit there its enriching sediment, which is called warp, or silt*.

The process of warping by which the land is thus covered with a new soil is extremely simple. The land to be warped (which must of course lie below

* The component parts of warp appear to be argillaceous and silicious earths, with portions of mica, marine salt, and mucilage.

the level of high water) is first inclosed by a substantial bank, and a large water course or drain is then made from the river to the inclosed land, which admits the water on the rising of the tide, freely to flow over the whole inclosure ; that part of the warping drain which penetrates through the bank of the river is walled on each side, and furnished with a flood gate*. And when the tide has attained its highest point this gate is shut and the water is detained until the ebbing of the next tide ; when having deposited its sediment, it is suffered to run off, as the water falls in the river. In a similar manner the water of every alternate tide is admitted, until a sufficient deposit of silt has been obtained, and in many cases a new rich soil may be thus formed in one season, of the thickness of from twelve to sixteen inches. It has been found that this operation of warping so enriches the soil, as to enable it to produce abundant crops for several successive years without any manure being applied. It is indeed necessary that the land should be kept in a state of tillage for six or seven years, as the salt, which, owing to the evaporation of the water, is deposited along with the earthy sediment, is found at the first to be prejudicial to grass seeds.

This highly beneficial method of improving land is supposed to have been first adopted in the eastern part of the district near the banks of the Aire and Ouse, and was no doubt first suggested to the minds of the inhabitants, by their observing the good

* This inlet through the bank of the river is called a elough.

effects produced by the occasional natural overflowings of the rivers, which in some parts have produced a warp soil of considerable thickness. Further particulars concerning this process may be obtained by consulting a valuable communication made by Ralph Creyke, esquire, of Rawcliffe-house, to the Society for the Encouragement of Arts, and which is contained in the 43d vol. of their Transactions. This gentleman himself warped several hundred acres of land, and received in consequence the large gold medal of the Society, in 1825.

The depth of the morass near Thorne, in some places is 20 feet, and in others, owing to the variation in the subsoil, not more than a few inches. In different parts of its widely extended surface may be seen, small clumps of stunted birch trees, which draw a scanty nourishment from the peat, whilst here and there a single tree, shews by a more luxuriant foliage, that its roots have reached the soil below. Near these, trees and in several other parts of the morass, are large ponds or pits of dark coloured water, perfectly free from weeds and aquatic plants, which are places of resort for the wild fowl that frequent the moor.

Cranberries are sometimes collected on these moors, although not in very large quantities, they are considered fine flavoured, but are frequently gathered by the poor people before they are fully ripe ; also black whortle berries grow in some of the driest situations, but not in sufficient quantities to repay the trouble of collecting.

The *Andromeda* (*polifolia glauca*) with its beautifully delicate wax like flower, is one of the prettiest productions of the peat. The varieties of heath (*Erica*) are not numerous.

Three specimens of the Sundew, (*Drosera*) may be collected on the morass ; the sundew is a singular little plant, furnished by nature with a glutinous matter, that exudes from the tips of a number of small red hair like glandular appendages with which the surface of its leaves is covered, giving it the appearance, when the sun shines, of being wet with dew. If a fly or any other small insect alights upon the plant, the tenacious quality of this transparent fluid, prevents its escape. This plant is commended by some as a great cordial, and good for consumptions, convulsions, and the plague. Formerly a cordial water, in which this herb was a principal ingredient, had great repute, under the name of *rosa solis*, though now this specific is almost out of date.—*Miller's Bot. Off.*

Eiophorum. L. The cotton grass, or cotton rush, grows here in great abundance, its white downy tuft, resembling the finest cotton wool, and from which it has its name, presents a very curious appearance, when in full bloom, and gently undulated by the wind.

Myrica. Gale, a strong aromatic shrub, frequently recommended, as a preservative of woollens from the ravages of the moth, may be found very plentiful by the sides of most of the drains.

Of mosses, there are on the peat an extensive va-

riety, amongst others, some beautiful specimens of coralloides may be collected, but they should be seen in their native situations, to form an adequate idea of the delicacy of their structures, and the brilliancy of their colours.

Formerly wild fowl resorted to the morass in immense numbers, but now, with the exception of geese at particular seasons, they are comparatively scarce. A few curlews, mallards, teal, snipes, and plovers are occasionally seen.

One species of the snipe tribe (*Scolopax gallinago*) is generally termed the moorlamb, by the turf cutters, from the bleating noise it makes, particularly in the breeding season. when hovering at an almost imperceptible height in the air; when these birds descend, they dart down with great rapidity. The cock is observed (while his mate sits on her eggs) to poise himself on his wings, making sometimes a whistling and sometimes a drumming noise.

The Heron (*Ardea major*) pays a periodical visit to the drains in summer. The heron has a small body, always lean and covered with a very thin skin, it builds in trees, and sometimes in high cliffs over the sea; forms its nest of sticks, lined with wool, and in the month of February lays five or six large eggs, of a pale green colour. This bird was formerly much esteemed as food; it is remarkably long lived, sometimes even exceeding the age of sixty years. The male is a very elegant bird; its forehead, crown, and the upper part of its neck are white; the head is adorned with a pendant crest of long black feathers,

beneath the wings there is a bed of black feathers ; which are very long and soft, and were formerly used as ornaments to the caps of the knights of the garter.

A few pairs of the moor buzzard, (*Falco æruginosus*) yearly breed on the most unfrequented parts of the morass. The cere of this bird is a greenish yellow, body chocolate tinged with brown, legs yellow, long and slender, beak, and talons black, weight twenty ounces, length twenty-one inches. This bird is one of the most voracious of its tribe. It is a well attested fact, that nine, nearly full grown moor game (*tetrix* and *rubra*) were taken out of its nest one day, and eight the next morning. The Gyr falcon, is also sometimes seen sailing over the moor.

Vipers are very numerous in some parts of the morass, but they seldom attempt to bite any one unless when provoked ; instances have, however, occurred of their attacking persons who have inadvertently approached too near their places of retreat. In very hot weather they may frequently be seen basking on the edge of the drains, and sometimes even in the foot paths. Dogs or cattle when bitten by these reptiles appear to suffer very much, and will seldom eat for several days ; yet in the larger animals, the bite seldom proves fatal. The best and readiest known remedy for the swelling caused by the bite of the viper is olive oil. Many a poor harmless natrix or common snake pays the forfeit of its life, under the mistaken notion of its being venomous like the viper ; but if the mouth of each of them be examined, two fangs will be found on each side of the upper

jaw of the viper, these fangs are long, crooked, and moveable, and can be raised or depressed at pleasure, they are hollow from near the point to the base, near which is a gland, that secretes, prepares, and lodges the poison; and the same action that gives the wound, forces from the gland through the tooth, the poisonous juice into it. This reptile creeps slowly, and never leaps like other serpents.

Harry Warburton was the last in this part of the country, who made a profession of viper catching; he was an eccentric character, and earned part of his livelihood by procuring vipers for the apothecaries and druggists. Broth made from vipers was then in repute as a strengthening aliment, and their fat much in request for the cure of tender eyes. Vinum Viperinum, or wine of vipers, was also accounted a grand restorative. With a stout stick, and an old stocking to put them in, Harry used to sally forth to the moors in search of the reptiles, and seldom returned without a capture. Vipers being sold alive, it required no little skill and address to secure them without being bitten. 'This man has been known to turn a number of them down on the flags in the church yard, to revive them in the sun, and afterwards, safely re-secure the whole of his hissing captives.

Of insects there are innumerable quantities on the moors, small gnats, generally called midges, are the most troublesome; on a fine autumnal evening, when the wind is still, these little tormentors render the houses in the neighbourhood of the peat almost uninhabitable.

THE TURF TRADE.

Should the improvements in drainage be continued with the same spirit and success, with which they have been for the last twenty years, the aspect of this country will gradually undergo a material change; and if the turbary or waste, now allotted to the different proprietors of the adjoining lands, should become thoroughly drained and warped, as is contemplated, the turf trade will be gradually lost. On that account, to give here a few particulars of the present and past state of this trade may be useful; and it is presumed that as many of the present inhabitants of the town have never been to the morass, a short description of the method of preparing the peat for fuel, may not be uninteresting. Before the Stainforth and Keadby canal was cut, an extensive trade* was carried on, in which was employed between thirty and forty boats, and more than the latter number of families earned a comfortable subsistence in cutting and preparing the peat, which they transported by means of the peculiar boats used for that purpose to the river Don; there it was shipped into larger vessels, for the supply of all the different towns on the banks of the Don, the Ouse, the Trent, and Humber.

On arriving at the morass, the workman proceeds with a sharp spade, adapted for the purpose, to clear the surface of the peat from the heath and other plants, with which it is covered; he then

* From an account kept, it appears, that upwards of 2000 boats laden with turf for shipment, passed the sluice in one year.

marks out a space, nine yards by one and a half, which, when cut to the depth of five feet, is considered a day's work, and contains about a boat load and a half. This space he divides into squares, each of these he again subdivides, by cuttings of two feet in depth into smaller squares, of about ten inches, which gives an appearance similar to the cheques on a draught board ; this done, he steps below, and by five sharp strokes of his spade, one cut a space below the other, nearly severs the mass, and with a sixth stroke, sets it completely at liberty. He next casts it with the spade into the arms of a bearer, who stands ready to receive and carry it to a short distance, there to be piled in rows to dry.

When the peat is very wet, the children who carry it in their arms, are provided with thick aprons of sacking or leather, down which the water from the turf almost constantly trickles, and has a very cooling appearance on a hot summer's day. The tanning principle in the water, and the constant exposure to the sun and weather, soon give the children a very tawny complexion, which however is not permanent.

After the drying of the turf has been thoroughly effected, the rows before mentioned are collected, and formed into heaps or stacks, neatly piled, so as preserve them from the wet, which can only be done to perfection by those who have been brought up to the business. After this, they are ready to be conveyed in boats along a new drain, (cut by order of the commissioners of the inclosure, in 1815,) to the canal, to be shipped to any part of the country ;

York and Hull are the principal markets for turf at present, and several vessels are constantly employed in the trade to the former place.

The ancient lines of the boating drains, by which peat was formerly brought to the town, converged to a point near a small cottage, lately built on the moors for Harry Stocks, thence the boats proceeded up the long drain to High Bridge, across the present line of the canal to Double Bridge, where was a small lock for holding up the water; after again crossing the line of the canal, near Jacob's Well, at the Wike end, they proceeded close by the town side to a sluice, taken up by order of the participants a few years ago, and thence into the river Don.

At the time this trade was in its greatest prosperity, the boating dike was filled with clear water, and was an ornament to the town, into which, it is said, that the water intruded at times so far, that boats have been seen up a wide open sewer that extended across the market place, fastened to the houses at the end of Church-lane. Since the removal of the sluice before alluded to, the communication with the river has been cut off, and this dike has become the common receptacle of filth, and a nuisance to the town.

The boats employed in transporting the turf from the moors are clinker built, about 27 feet long, and $13\frac{1}{2}$ wide; they are sharp at both ends, and made to work either stem or stern foremost, the drains being too narrow to allow the turning of such boats in them.

Formerly, there were above thirty of these ves-

sels employed in this neighbourhood, but now there are not more than eight or nine, which are chiefly confined to the moors.

SECTION VII.

THE RIVER DON.

THE river Don, Dan, or Dun, so called, (says Camden) because it is carried in a low, deep channel, for that is the signification of the British word Dan.

“ This river riseth in the upper part of Pennystone parish, near Lady's Crosse, which may be called our Appenines, because the rain water that falleth, sheddeth from sea to sea, cometh to Birchworth, so to Pennystone, thence to Boleterstone by Medop, leaveth Warncliffe chase (stored with roebucks, which are decayed since the great frost) on the north belonging to Sir Francis Wortley, where he hath great iron works. The said Warncliffe affordeth 200 dozen of coal for ever to his said works. In the chase he had red and fallow deer and roes; and leaveth Bethuns, a chase and tower of the earl of Salop, on the south side. By Wortley to Waddsley, where, in times past, Everingham of Stainber had a park, now disparked. Thence to Sheffield, where it washeth the castle wall; keepeth its course to Attercliffe, where is an iron forge of the earl of Salop; from thence to Winklebank, Kymerworth, and Eccles, where it entertayneth the Rother: cometh presently to Rotherham, then to Aldwark Hall, the

Fitzwilliams's ancient possessions; then to Thribergh parke, the seat of Reresbyes Knights; then to Mexborough, where hath been a castle; then to Conisborough parke and Castle of the earl of Warrens, where there is a place called Horsa's tomb. From thence to Sprotebrough, the ancient seat of the famous family of Fitzwilliam, who have flourished since the conquest. Thence to Newton to Donceastre, Wheatley, and Kirk Sandal to Barnby Dun, by Bramwith and Stainforth to Fishlake;" it then flows past Thorne Quay, about a mile north of the town, where it begins to take a northern course, and at New Bridge, four miles from Thorne, enters a canal, commonly called the Dutch River, cut by Sir Cornelius Vermuyden, and his Dutch and Flemish followers, about the year 1630, and then flows north east to the Ouse, into which it falls at Goole Bridge.

England presents few more beautiful scenes than are to be found at several points in the early progress of the Don; but when it has received all its tributary waters, it loses its original character, and becomes what the author of *Ivanhoe* describes it, "a soft and gentle river."

Formerly, the river divided at Stainforth into several channels, the most considerable of these joined the Aire at Turn Bridge, between Snaith and Rawcliff, then a port town; another branch flowed by Seadike Bank to Tudworth; and a third passed close to the town of Thorne. The two last branches united, and formed the old river Don, which flowed by Crowle, Eastoft, Haldenby, and Fockerby, to the Trent at Adlingfleet.

The diversion of this river from its ancient winding course, the original bed of which is still perceptible at the south end of the town of Thorne, also on the Levels, and at Eastoft, and in various other places, being intimately connected with the drainage of the level of Hatfield chase, an abridged account of the progress in that undertaking is subjoined.

From time immemorial a large tract of country in the counties of York, Lincoln, and Nottingham, called the Level of Hatfield Chase, had been subject to be overflowed with water.

As early as the first of Edward III. (1327) the inhabitants commenced the drainage, to improve the land and general face of the country. In 26 E. 3*. it appears, Ralpe de Wilughby, Will. Basset, Will. de Skipwith, Illard de Usflete, Robert de Haldanby, John de Lasincroft, and John de Flete, of Bulwiche, were constituted commissioners, to view and repair the banks of the rivers Trent and Done, within the hundred of Crulle (Crowle.)

And long after this, scil. in 5 E. 4,† Sir Thomas Burghe, and Sir Robert Constable, knight, John Nevill, Robert Sheffield, junior, Thomas Moigne, Richard Hauserd, of Ouresby, and others, were appointed commissioners, for the view and repair of the banks and sewers throughout the isle, and also betwixt Bykersdyke, on each side, in the county of Nottingham, and the river Done, on both sides, in the county of York; as also to impress so many

* Pat. 26. E. 3. p. 3. m. 22. in dorso.

† Pat. 5 C. 4. p. 1. m. 23. in dorso.

labourers as they should think necessary for that purpose, upon competent wages, in respect of the great necessity for hastening thereof.

Several successive commissions were afterwards appointed, in the succeeding reigns ; and soon after the commencement of King Charles's reign, it is stated, a commendable work was undertaken, not only for draining of all the surrounded marshes of the isle, but of the adjacent fenny grounds, laying in Yorkshire ; viz. Hatfield Chase and Ditchmarsh ; for at that time the overflowing of the fresh waters over all that level was such, by reason, of obstructions in several parts of the rivers Idel, Bykersdyke, Turne, Done, and Aire, with silt and other impediments, chiefly contracted by the daily tides ; that, not only in winter, but even in summer, boats laden with plaster passed over the levels to a place called Holten bridge, near Hatfield Woodhouse, the waters upon the drowned grounds being about three feet deep : and a fisher's house, called Steere's lodge, standing on ground raised three or four feet above the level of the country, often drowned, "insomuch as there was no less than sixty thousand acres of land thus overflowed by the fresh waters."

"The said king therefore, being seized of the Level of Hatfield Chase and of divers lands and waste grounds belonging to the same : as also of and in the chase called Hatfield Chase ; with Dikesmarsh, together with the lordships of Wroote and

* Ex diversis, depositionibus, in lingula Brevium de term. Pasch. 24. Caroli penes Remcm. Scacc.

Finningley, in the county of Yorke, all lying upon the same flat ; out of his royal and princely care for the publick good in regaining so great a proportion of surrounded land, which, at the best yielded little or no profit to the commonwealth, but contrariwise nourished beggars and idle persons, and having a chase of red deer though a good part of this fen, which much annoyed and oppressed the residue ; resolving by the advice of his counsel ; partly for the easing of his charge, and increase of his revenue, and partly for the improving and reducing of so great a quantity of drowned and boggy ground, to be made good meadow, arable, and pasture, for the general good ; did under the great seal of England, contract with Cornelius Vermuyden, then of the city of London, esquire, by articles bearing date the twenty fourth day of May, 1626 in the second year of his reign, the substance whereof was as followeth.

First, That Sir Cornelius should, at his own charge drain and lay the same dry ; beginning the work within three months, after the king should have agreed with those persons that had interest of common therein ; and finish it with all possible expedition.

Second. That Sir Cornelius, in consideration thereof, should have to him and his heirs, for ever, one full third part of the surrounded ground, to hold of the king, his heirs and successors, as of his manor of East Greenwiche in free and common socage.

Third. That Sir Cornelius should pay and satisfy to the owners of all lands laying within the level, and so surrounded, such sums of money, as the same

should be thought worth by four commissioners ; whereof two to be named by the lord treasurer of England and the other two by Sir Cornelius

Fourth. That the work being finished, there should be, for the better preservation thereof, a corporation made, to make acts and ordinances to that end, as occasion should require ; consisting of such persons as he the said Cornelius and his heirs should nominate.

Fifth. That within three years after that should be finished, six Commissioners to be appointed ; viz. three by the Lord Treasurer of England and three by the same Cornelius, his heirs, &c. to view them, and estimate what the future yearly charge might amount unto, for the perpetual maintaining of them ; whereupon Sir Cornelius to convey and assure the inheritance of lands to such a value, as might be thought sufficient to support that charge."

On the 5th of February, in the fourth year of his reign, king Charles I. granted, for the consideration of £10.000, to be paid by Sir Cornelius Vermuyden, the manor of Hatfield, and also a third part of the manor of Brampton, called Grates at Gate. the park at Hatfield, the manors of Fishlake, Thorne, Stainford, &c. Dowcethorpe, in the county of York ; also all that parcel of waste, marsh, and moorish land, described at that time to have been overflowed with water, part of the manor of Hatfield, and known by the several names of Dishmarsh, Haines, Totlets, Nunmoore, Northtofts, Midlings, Smithy-green, Bromwith Marsh, Broadhill, Stawker's Rush-

hills, Dartness, Moorside, Rainbutts, Uggin Carr, and Uggin Lings, Raugh Carr, Alder's Carr, and Thorne Carr, containing by estimation 10,206 acres, with divers messuages, houses, rents, services, royalties, liberties, &c. particularly mentioned in the letters patent, save some exceptions of or under the annual rent of one hundred and fifty pounds.

An after clause thus proceeds, Sir Cornelius Vermuyden, or his heirs, shall hold the demesne or manor of Hatfield, and the manors of Fishlake, Thorne, Stainford, and Dowcethorpe, and the park, and so forth; together with our right of turbary, &c. &c. and manor of Hatfield and Thorne, under the annual rent of one hundred and ninety five pounds, three shillings, and five pence halfpenny; and an increased rent of £425, at Midsummer and Christmas, by half yearly payments; and for the premises in Wroot, an increased rent of £60, payable at the same time; old rents, £8. 6s. 8d. and a pair of gloves, or four pence.

The rents reserved by the king were afterwards granted by letters patent, bearing date the 9th day of September, in the fifth year of his reign, to Katharine, late Duchess of Buckingham, and Sir George Manners, knight, afterwards Earl of Rutland, in trust for George Duke of Buckingham.

The king likewise granted, to John Gibbon and J. Corcillis esquires, his third part of the drained lands, on paying the fee farm rent of £1228. 17s. to be paid to the crown for ever, which was afterwards granted to the Duke of Buckingham.

During the time Sir Cornelius Vermuyden was in progress with draining the Levels, his work was frequently obstructed, and the foreigners who accompanied him insulted, by the neighbouring landholders. A description in M.S. of some of the proceedings, written by one of the original proprietors, is as follows.

“ Whilst this great projector was actively employed in his undertaking, he found himself mightily annoyed by the gnats and flies, that is, the common inhabitants, who began to look with a jealous eye upon the large banks and mounds cast up by the settlers ; suspecting that by these works they were endeavouring to drain the water on the higher land, to preserve their own improvements in the lower grounds. The inhabitants, therefore, endeavoured to obstruct the work, but not finding their efforts of much avail, they collected together all the carts, barrows, and working instruments they could meet with belonging to Vermuyden’s party, and burnt them in large heaps by night ; upon which Sir Cornelius was obliged to effect a reconciliation, by purchasing lands for his drains of the ancient owners, and satisfying the common people, by giving them extraordinary wages.

Having by these means appeased the disaffected, he purchased of the king the manor of Hatfield, and other grounds, so that he and his partners became possessed of most of the surrounded land ; upon which, they stopped up the course of the river Dun, running by Thorne ; with a great bank, or wall of

earth, of an extraordinary height, and turned the waters out of their usual channel through the improved lands ; into the grounds and houses of the old inhabitants of Sykehouse, Fishlake, Stainford, Baln, and Pollington, to the utter ruin, both of the land and the inhabitants.

The injured party therefore again obstructed the work ; and, April the 10th, 1629, a complaint was laid before the council board, Whitehall, by the Attorney General and Sir C. Vermuyden, of the riotous and rebellious carriage of Robert Portington, esq., and others, in beating, wounding, and killing divers of the workmen employed in this undertaking ; and for spoiling the walls made for the draining of the lands. This business was heard and debated in the presence of the king. Portington and others were bound to their behaviour ; and Sir Cornelius left at liberty to prosecute, he being required also to secure at his own charge, the banks of Fishlake and Sykehouse, in what was requisite for their safety. And whereas, it was moved that Robert Portington (one of the persons complained of) might be put out of commission of being a justice of the peace for the west riding ; it is ordered, that he shall continue in commission so long as he behaveth himself well.

In May, 1630, the inhabitants of Sykehouse, Fishlake, Stainford, Cowick, Snaith, Baln, and Pollington, exhibited their petition at the board, certified by divers justices of the peace, assembled at the sessions, held at Pontefract, representing the infinite loss they had sustained by the inundations of

water, caused by the participant's new works, which not only entered their houses, but that their corn and hay, both in barns and stacks, were utterly spoiled; their corn sown upon the ground washed away; their cattle lost, for want of food, the tilled lands made unfit to be sown; and thereby the inhabitants much impoverished; which overflowings were caused by the banks raised by Sir Cornelius Vermuyden and others, to drain the lands in Hatfield Chase, by turning the waters of the Dun and Air into channels not capable to receive and carry them away; whereby that part of the country would become uninhabitable, if some means of prevention was not used. On the other side it was alledged, that the losses were not such as were pretended, and that the decay and lowness of the old banks belonging to Sykehouse and Fishlake, over against the new walls of the undertakers, were the true causes of the inconveniences complained of; and that the undertakers had cut a new channel, of sufficient breadth and depth. That the substantial repairing and raising of the old banks, according to a late order of the board, would secure the country, and prevent future damages. These allegations were deliberately heard the king being present.

It was therefore ordered, that the inhabitants of Sykehouse and Fishlake should contribute two hundred pounds, to be paid to Sir Cornelius, and that he, or his participants, should at their own charge perfect the work, by making the banks of the old wall, over against the new wall of the undertakers,

as high and as broad as they anciently were, or as he or they should think fit for the safety of the country.

This order does not appear to have been attended to; and for many years afterwards disputes were continually arising, to the great emolument of the gentlemen of the law.*

About the year 1635, the board issued an order for lord Wentworth to tax the inhabitants of Syke-house and Fishlake, with a yearly payment, for maintaining the banks; which he did in the annual charge of ten pounds. But whilst the inhabitants were thus called upon to contribute several sums of money towards the repairs of the banks, the work itself was shamefully neglected. Accordingly, several complaints were made to the board against Sir Philibert Vernatti, baronet, and Sir Cornelius Vermuyden, knight, and others, for the loss sustained; which cause was ordered to be heard before the council at York. Complaint was also made of the stoppage of the river Don, running by Thorne, which was alledged to be the cause of their damages; this was referred to the commissioners of sewers, who ordered a noble sluice to be built at Goole, that answered the purpose for which it was intended. But after some years, this sluice was driven down by the force of the tides, and never afterwards put into sufficient repair.

* Several writers also exerted their talents in defence of the different parties; of one of them Mr. Gough has a MS. in his possession, entitled, "Thorne Slouse, or the Devil upon Dun," set forth in the year of our Lord 1706.

The participants being now parted and most of their families and adherents in disdain and poverty, it made way for a new succession, most of whom were the successful English of that memorable age, who so managed the authority of the court of sewers for their own ends, and the county not taking timely notice of the evil consequences of it, that what they then did for themselves is practicable now and has come into good liking ever since. For although the juries have brought in their presentment several times, upon their views, and laid their defaults upon the participants: yet such presentments, not being agreeable to the court, have been refused, and the juries had leave given them to go home, who in such cases have not been lawfully discharged to this day.

Nay even the commissioners themselves, that are participants, have acknowledged the ancient country grievances, such as, they will tell you, they know not how to help, and that is because they will not, for they never yet redressed one petition or grievance since the restoration; though the country's losses grow every year more insupportable than the former. But now that Goole sluice is so long since taken away, and by that means the ancient passage warped up, let them look back upon the order of the council, which says, that if it cannot be otherwise avoided, to again open the river Dun, running by Thorne.

And observe further, that though the going away of Goole sluice has been of such dismal consequences to the country, that we can evidence more than

[twenty floods, that have been more destructive to the ancient lands than the burthen of all the taxes put together, since the revolution to this day (and all their repeated losses by water, of more computation than if all their towns had been burnt by fire) ; yet after all this, the other part of the order, of the opening of the river again, is not even looked upon, but is kept up so, that often times the ancient land is overspread in most places, three miles at least with water ; all which has not, in some parts below, the passage of one hundred and ten yards, and not above four feet deep, and that too repelled frequently by violent tides. So that, by this you may measure the oppression the ancient country lies under, which has no manner of law for its support, but prescription ; which, in this case, is of no manner of authority, but with such tame fools as have known no better ; for no man can conceive that the country can be bound up to suffer these unsupportable damages by any of the orders of council, made 12th May, 1630, or that Fishlake and Sykehouse should be included in that clause of the order, of inevitable and unforeseen accidents, when all our ancient passages for conveyance are now clearly warped up, and the river too, in such manner, that the banks, now made against Fishlake, are higher than the chamber floors of many of the ancient houses, nay, even the eaves of some of them, and the sole of the church low windows, whose foundation is upon the highest ground, as usually all churches are.

And here you have an account of nine years and

six days, in which the country was miserably spoiled and wasted, the poor oppressed to the *great* pleasure and vanity of a *new nothing*. Not long after this, these chosen people forsook their entrenchments, and fled ; having the favour to borrow craftily, and spoil most of their neighbours. Sir Cornelius Vermuyden dies miserably poor in the south, and all the rest, saving a few dispersed ; leaving their adventure to a hopeful succession of managers, who would raze the very rainbow out of the firmament of heaven, were they but assured of an ark for their own safety. But this with submission to all and every of the honourable persons, sharers in the improvement, not any of which were ever stained by any personally acting : and withal, among the commoners there are many good men, who were not embarked in so bad a bottom.

In perusing the foregoing pages, the reader will perceive, that the writer, who stiles himself a lover of his country, or in others words,

Some village Hampden, that, with dauntless breast,
The little tyrant of his fields withstood ;

appears to have been very much prejudiced against the participants, and of course allowance must be made, in the heavy charges produced against Sir Cornelius Vermuyden and his coadjutors.

INUNDATIONS.

The indefatigable and enquiring mind of Abraham de la Pryme, seems to have allowed no extraordinary phenomenon of this part of the country, to have escaped its observation. His account of the inun-

dations from the river Don, especially of the one by which the Gore Stile Gime*, near Thorne Quay was formed, will be read with interest, it is as follows.

“ Towards the end of this year (1687) there happened a great inundation on the levels, by means of much rains that fell, and the high tides ; which increased the waters so, that they broke the banks and drowned the country for a vast many miles about. My father, and every one in general that dwelt there, lost very considerably in their winter corn, besides the great expense they were put to by boating their cattle to the hills, and firm lands, with the trouble of keeping them there two or three months. I have been several times upon these banks, (which are about three yards in height,) when the water has been full to the very tops, and nothing appeared on that side but a terrible tempestuous sea. The water remains about half a week, and sometimes a week, at its full height, whose motions some hundreds of people are watching night and day. But if it chance to be so strong, as to drive away, as it oftens does, any quantity of any of the banks, then it drowns all before it, and makes a noise by its fall which is heard many miles before they perceive the water ; and in the places where it precipitates itself down, makes a huge pond or pit, sometimes one hundred yards about, and a vast depth, so that in that place, it being impossible for the bank to be

* From a copyhold rental, made in the year 1712---“ Thomas Canby, gent. one acre two roods and a half in the Gore, the remainder, three roods, being taken away by the floods and breach of the bank, nine pence three farthings.”

built again, they always build it half round, many of which pits and banks may be seen beyond Thorne.

“ On the 17th of December 1697, we had a very great snow, which was on the level ground about two foot and a half thick, after a pretty hard frost, which froze over again for several days. On the 20th it thawed exceedingly fast, upon which there came down a great flood that the like was never known ; about forty one years since there was the greatest flood that was then ever remembered, but that was much less than this : for this came roaring all of a sudden, about eleven o'clock at night, on to Bramwith, Fishlake, Thorne, and other towns, upon which the people rung all their bells backwards (as they commonly do in case of a great fire,) but though this frightened all to the banks, and bid them all look about them, yet, nevertheless, the loss was very great. The people of Sykehouse, and Fishlake, they had banks to save them, yet it overtopt all ; drowned the beasts in their folds and destroyed their sheep ; several men lost their lives ; the houses in Sykehouse and Fishlake being drowned up to the very eaves ; so that they reckon no less than £ 3,000 damage was done by the same in the parish of Fishlake. It came with such force against all the banks about Thorne, which kept the waters off the Levels, that every body gave them over, there being no hopes to save them, and ran over them all along, and the ground being so hard they could not strike down stakes upon the tops of their banks, to hinder the water from running over. At last, it being impossible that such

vast waters should be contained in such short small bounds, it burst a huge gime close by Gore Style*, near Thorne, where there had been a vast gime formerly, and so drowned the whole levels to an exceeding great depth, so that many people were kept so long in the upper part of their houses that they were almost pined, whilst all their beasts were drowned about them. It was indeed a very sad thing to hear the oxen bellowing and the sheep bleating, and the people crying out for help round about as thy did, all over Bramwith, Sykehouse, Stainford, and Fishlake, and undoubtedly in other places, yet no one could get to save or help them, it being about midnight; and so many poor people were forced to remain, for several days together, some upon the tops of their houses, others in the highest rooms, without meat or fire, until they were almost starved."

Since the time Pryme wrote, two or three floods equally destructive with the one he last describes, have deluged the districts on the north side of the river Don. These disastrous events generally form eras in the local traditions of the country.

SECTION VIII.

THE DRAINAGE OF THE LEVEL OF HATFIELD CHASE.

THE reader has now been made acquainted, under the head River Don, with some of the proceedings connected with the drainage of the Level of Hat-

* End of the field, near the river.

field Chase, on the north and west side of the town of Thorne ; to elucidate the history of this drainage in other parts, and to shew the desperate means that were frequently resorted to by the original inhabitants of this part of the country, in opposition to the improvements of the Dutch settlers, further interesting particulars are subjoined.

But previously to entering upon the proceedings connected with the settlers, it may be premised, that this tract, which is aptly named the Levels, is in most parts as level as the sea itself, and considerably below the high water mark in the Trent ; and besides the Don, of which a description has been already given, there were a number of streamlets which rose in or near the Level, some with and some without a name ; but so altered is the face of the country, in respect of its waters, by the labour of the drainage, that few of the present inhabitants know the situations of the Maden and the Gamson, two of its native streams, sufficiently important to have acquired a distinct appellation.

But though there were definite channels, and some of them sufficiently deep to admit of the passage of vessels along them, yet there were also many small lakes which were supplied by these rivers, the waters of which were never exhausted even in the driest season. Between Tudworth and Thorne was on extensive mere, yielding at the conquest an almost incredible number of fish. The intercourse between Thorne and Hatfield was usually conducted by boats. Of this the ecclesiastical history of the

parish of Hatfield affords a remarkable proof ; the loss of a corpse with a company of mourners who were proceeding with it in a boat to Hatfield for interment, being urged by the inhabitants of Thorne, as a reason for the extension of the right of sepulchre to their chapel. When Leland visited this part of the country, he passed to Tudworth Mere from Thorne in a boat, and thence three miles along a small gut, or syke, which, he says, was named Brier, to a place called Wrangton Cote, and so to the isle of Axholme ; at that time people used to go in boats, over the Carrs between Lammas and Michaelmas, to look after their swans.

Few if any trees were planted on this chase, or even any where in the middle ages of our history, yet Domesday shows that there were in the levels, as in other parts of the country, that species of country denominated *silva pascua* ; and in a survey of Hatfield made in 1607 four woods are mentioned, Broadholme, Uygyn, Lindholme, and Brickhill, containing respectively twenty nine, twelve and sixteen oaks.

In a country like this, the inhabitants would naturally be more devoted to field sports than to the regular occupations of husbandry. The opportunities it afforded for enjoying the pleasures of hunting, fowling, and fishing were unrivalled ; and these were amusements in which, above all, the ancient baron was accustomed to delight. The whole of this district was one great chase. Hither the

earls of Warren were accustomed to resort for the enjoyment of these sports, and near the centre of the chase, at what is now the village of Hatfield, they had a house at which they might remain when, fatigued with their day's exertion, they were unwilling to return to Coningsborough. Near this house was a park of five hundred acres, the memory of which is still retained in the local nomenclature of the district. This park was at all times well stocked with deer, which were also to be seen roaming at large through the whole limits of the chase.

When Edward Balliol, the ex-king of Scotland, was residing at Wheatley, he amused himself with sporting on these levels in the Fœdera, there is a curious instrument dated Oct. 19, 1356, in which pardon is granted him for the slaughter he had committed. The amount of this slaughter is particularly described. In the chase he had killed 16 hinds, 6 does, 8 stags, 3 calves, and 6 kids; in the park 8 damas, 1 souram, 1 sourellum (a kind of fallow deer); in the ponds, 2 pikes, of $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet in length, 3 of 3 feet long, 20 of $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet, 20 of 2 feet, 50 pickerels of $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet, 6 of 1 foot, 109 perch, roach, tench, and skelys, and 6 breams and bremettes. Robert de Mauley was at that time bailiff of Hatfield and John de Aldwick his lieutenant.

The general superintendence of the chase was vested in the chief justice in Eyre north of Trent, which was held by successive chiefs of the house of Shrewsbury. There was also an officer called the master of the game, under these were numerous

under keepers. They had stations at the following places.

Holme House,	Eastoft,	Gatewood,
Double daile,	Sandal,	Lindholm,
Bramwith,	Crowle,	Thorne,
Flaxley,	Belton,	Tudworth,
Bloudsworth,	Samson's Lodge,	Woodhouse,
Domsteinfield	Sandtoft,	Armthorpe.
Bawtry,		

In the inquisition of 1607, it is said, the number, of red deer amounts to about a thousand, and that the herd is much impaired by the depredations of the borderers. De la Pryme, our interesting historian, who might have known those that lived before the drainage, gives a traditionary report, that deer were as plentiful as sheep upon a hill, and venison as abundant in a poor mans kitchen as mutton was at that time.

The fisheries were cultivated as well for profit as pleasure at a time when the consumption of fish, owing to the rigidness of religious observances, was much greater than it is at present, and of course the importance of the fisheries whether on the coast or on the inland lakes was in proportion. On the mere at Tudworth there were twenty distinct fisheries, at the time of the conquest, each of which rendered a thousand fish or eels (*angullæ*) to the lord of Coningsborough; in the copyhold rentals of a later period, fifty fisheries are mentioned at Thorne and Tudworth, one at the latter place is particularized as the Tench garth. During the late inclosure the remains of a boat and the part of a staith were dug up a little below the hill at Tudworth.

The peasantry of a country abounding in game will be less civilized and less tractable than where there is not the same temptation to brave the hazards which attend nocturnal depredations ; and to the lawless spirit which such a mode of life would generate, may be attributed the violence which the natives of these regions opposed to the persons who undertook to reclaim the flooded lands.

Having now sketched the state of the Chase previously to the time of king Charles I., and his grant to Sir Cornelius Vermuyden, and other proceedings having been already given in a former part of this work, a list of the proprietary as it stood in the year 1635, will introduce the reader to the worthy projectors of the improved state of drainage in this district.

The lands late Sir Cornelius Vermuyden,		} acres.
now John Gibbons	- - -	
		4554
Andrew Bocard and John Corselis	- -	3600
Sir Philibert Vernatti, kt. and bart.	3150	} 3700
Abram Vernatti	- - - 550	
Lucas van Valkenborch	- - 1247	} 3204
Marcus van Valkenborch	- - 1146	
Matthew van Valkenborch	- - 811	
Cornelius van Beueren at Dort	- -	1300
Samuel van Peenin	- - -	1178
John van Baerle <i>cum suis</i> at Amsterdam		1000
William van Weely at Amsterdam	361	} 711
Philip Jacobson	- - - 350	
Isaac and Pieter van Peenin	- - -	572
Pieter Cruypenninck at Amsterdam	-	440

The Widow of Edward Bushop	-	-	400
Marcellus van Darin	-	-	400
Sir James Cambell, knight	-	-	600
Sir John Ogle, knight	-	-	339
The Heirs of Derrick Semey of Amsterdam			300
Leonard Catts at Middleborch	-	-	200
Fabian Vliet, at the Hague	-	-	200
Roelof and Sebastian Franken, at Dort	-		200
The Widow of Michael Crayesteyn, at Dort			200
Abram Dolens	-	-	200
Abram Struys, at Dort	-	-	250
The Widow of Dionysius Vandeal	-	-	160
Jacob Struys	-	-	150
Charles de Bruxelles, at Dort	-	-	100
Regnier Cornelisen Vos, at Dort	-	-	100
Wouter Degelder, at Dort	-	-	100
The Professor Goel	-	-	100
John Vandimen	-	-	100
The Heirs of Jacob Droogbroot, at Middle-			
borch	-	-	80
Sir James Catts, knight, at Dort	-	-	67

Acres - - 24,505

There were other foreigners, who had lands, or who were living on these levels about that time.

Captain Graiff	Bondervyn Clasen van War-
Dingman de Vries	Sir Lucas Corselis [mont
Jacob de Witt	Pieter Vangelder
Isaac Lombrach	Heneric Kysten
Gamaliel Vandernoen	Nicholas Donsen
Thomas and William de Witt	Pieter Ridder
Sir William Courten	Edward Lyons
Jan Lemaire	John Deverl
Christian Vandervarl	Robert Grinskins

Some of these foreigners embarked in the design with the intention of abandoning their own country ; others considered it in the light of a means of employing their capital ; and the state of Holland at that time was such, both as regarded politics and religion, as to make it desirable to numbers of the proscribed party to seek an asylum in England.

A small congregation of these emigrants used to meet, for the purpose of religious worship, in the Hall, at Crowtrees, prior to the erection of a chapel at Sandtoft. In the fourteenth year of the reign of Charles I. they built a chapel, and a number of houses there ; they also appointed a minister, with a salary of eighty pounds a year, and the service was read alternately in the French and Dutch languages. It appears that there were then about two hundred families of French and Walloon protestants connected with this establishment. But Sandtoft had before that time been the place of residence of one religious, who had a cell there, founded by Roger de Mowbray, under the abbey of St. Mary at York, for whose defence a mastiff was constantly maintained*.

For about seven years the new settlers cultivated their lands in peace.* A commission of the sewers was appointed, in pursuance of the last order in council, directed to disinterested and honourable

* Roger de Mowbray gave the isle called Sandtoft, and large possessions with it, for a cell to the church of St. Mary's, at York : and William earl of Warren, gave Henes to the said monastery. Thomas Plunketh was the first Prior of Sandtoft and Henes. No valuation is attached to these gifts. Mon. Ang. v. ii. p. 1022.

men, by whom the interests of the participants, their tenants, and the old inhabitants, were equally protected. The completion of the Dutch river had taken away the cause of complaint from the inhabitants of Sykehouse and Fishlake; and though in other parts of the level there were questions still unsettled, yet little seemed left to disturb the peace of the district.

However, at the beginning of the civil wars, a committee sat at Lincoln, for the purpose of watching over the interests of the parliament in that county; Sir Ralph Hansby was at Doncaster exceedingly active and zealous in the royal cause. A rumour, true or false, was circulated in Lincolnshire, that he intended to march to the Isle of Axholme, the inhabitants of which were, for the most part, disaffected to the king. To frustrate this design the committee had recourse to the desperate means of defence which the Hollanders have at times so successfully employed. They ordered the flood gates of Snow-sewer to be pulled up; in consequence of which, the waters of the Trent*

* It appears, by Thackray's levels, that the high water of spring tides in the Trent, at Keadby sluice, when the river is in its usual state, rises to the height of about eight feet above the general surface of the low lands in the chase; but when the river is flooded, the high water rises to the height of about eleven feet above the surface. Low water of a spring tide in the Trent, when the river is in its ordinary state, lies about five feet and a half below the general surface; but when the river is flooded, it is only about three feet below the surface. The ordinary neap tides of the Trent, when unaffected by the land freshes, rise about four feet above the surface of the low lands, and when the land freshes are in the Trent, they rise more than seven feet above the surface. The low water, in the former case, is about six feet and a half, and in the latter, only about three feet below the surface.

again spread themselves over a great part of these levels. This was done in the beginning of the year 1642; and a guard of soldiers was stationed there for seven weeks, to prevent the breach being closed. This company threatened that they would stay till the whole level was drowned, and the inhabitants forced to swim away like ducks. About the same time, some of the inhabitants of Misterton pulled down another sluice near that town, which occasioned the river Trent to break the banks and overflow the whole level, so that barns and stacks of corn, in many situations, were immersed a yard high in water.

Yet the inhabitants of the Isle of Axholme, not satisfied with the mischief and damage that had been already done, and the civil wars having relaxed the authority of the laws, in the autumn of 1645 they threw down great part of the banks, filled up the ditches, and turned their cattle into the pastures and standing corn of the poor suffering adventurers.

The participants represented their case to parliament, in which they stated, that after expending at least two hundred thousand pounds in those works, the inhabitants of Epworth had drowned and laid waste a portion of at least 70,000 acres of land, and destroyed a great quantity of rape and growing corn, by pasturing their cattle upon it; that they had also burnt several houses, destroyed their ploughs and farming implements, beat and wounded their labourers, and threatened to destroy their remaining banks and sluices; upon which, at the end

of the year 1645, an order was made, that the sheriff of Lincolnshire should pursue the statute of 13 Henry IV. for suppressing riots, and call to his assistance the trainbands of the country, and any other parliamentary forces that might be there, to protect the participants in repairing whatever had been demolished, and that a deputy should be appointed to act within the limits of the levels, for the immediate aid of the participants.

The commoners had now recourse to legal proceedings; they applied for a reversal of Sir John Bankes's decree. The question being again before the courts, an order was issued to the sheriffs, to put the participants in possession of the lands assigned them by the decree, subject to the ultimate decision of the court. But when the sheriff arrived in the isle, he found himself forcibly obstructed by a body of four hundred men, with Daniel Noddell, a solicitor, at their head. And when, in 1650, the original decree was confirmed in the Exchequer, riots more violent than the former occurred, in the course of which no fewer than eighty two dwellinghouses of the foreign settlers were destroyed, with the barns, stabling, windmill, and the growing corn and rape on about 3400 acres; these damages were estimated at £80,000. The chapel at Sandtoft was defaced with circumstances of brutality that strongly mark the vulgar character of the assailants. For ten days the isle men were in a state of open rebellion.

During these disturbances two old parliamentary

officers appeared in the isle. These were Major John Wildman, who, since the wars were over, had betaken himself to the dangerous employment of soliciting and managing suits ; and Colonel Lilburn, at that time a most turbulent subject.

It is stated, that John Lilburn, the English republican, was not inferior to Cato in firmness of resolution and unyielding intrepidity. Perhaps there was more of the restless and contentious mixed in his disposition ; yet the differences between the two characters may be chiefly ascribed to the difference of their education and situation in life. John was an apprentice in London when he first exhibited his impatience of tyranny, by a complaint before the chamberlain, against his master, for ill usage. He then began to study the divinity of the times, which mostly tended to controversial disputation, and he became a zealous puritan, with all the austerity of the sect. The Book of Martyrs inspired him with an enthusiastic fervour for acting and suffering in what he deemed the righteous cause. He was soon called upon to suffer, and no one could go through his trials with a more unsubdued spirit. His steadfast appeals to the laws of his country and the privileges of Englishmen, procured him great popularity with the inferior classes, and the title of *Freeborn John*. Lilburn passed a life of contest against power, in every hand in which it was placed, of dispute with all his superiors in command, and of virulent controversy on civil and religious topics. He was a brave soldier, but never found an authority under which

he could continue to act. He appears to have been fond of contention for its own sake ; yet without doubt there was much of principle in his constant opposition to injustice and oppression ; and the event often proved him to be in the right. That a kind of ridicule is attached to his memory, is perhaps chiefly owing to the contemptible nature of many of the disputes in which he was engaged, and the vulgarity of his stile and manners.

To these men the people of Epworth agreed to assign over 2000 acres of their moor, on condition of being established in the whole 74,000 acres, and being saved harmless touching all riots past. They urged the people of Crowle, and even the old inhabitants of the chase of Hatfield, to set up a claim like their own to the commons.

At the making of these leases, Noddell insolently declared “ that he would bet 20 shillings with any man, that as soon as Lilburn came to London, there should be a new parliament ; and Lilburn should be one of them, and call that parliament to account.” Further adding, “ that they having now finished this of Lincolnshire (meaning obtained the land from the petitioners) they would go into Yorkshire (*i.e.* the rest of the Level) and do the like there ; and then they would give the attorney general work enough.”

This Noddell at another time said, “ that now they had drawn their case, they would print it, and nail it to the door of the parliament house ; and if they would not do them justice, they would come up, and, making an outcry, pull them out by the ears.”

So confident were they of final success, that though holding land which belonged to the participants, in defiance of the law, they erected houses upon it; and Lilburn himself is said by Dugdale to have repaired the house at Sandtoft, which had been built for the minister, and to have put his servant to reside in it, and, in the true spirit of his character, to have employed the chapel as a stable or barn.

In the autumn of 1653, the council of state issued an order, that the forces of the army quartered in the level of Hatfield Chase, should aid the officers of justice in settling the participants in possession of the 74,000 acres, and in suppressing tumults; and that a commission of oyer and terminer should be issued to try the rioters, and to punish them according to law and justice. And in 1656, Major-general Whalley was appointed to superintend this part of the levels; and he was instructed to aid the sheriffs or the deputies of the court of sewers, in keeping the peace, putting any legal decree into execution, maintaining all persons in their rights, and especially the strangers, in the free exercise of their religion at the accustomed place.

The first parliament after the restoration of Charles II. were much occupied with the affairs of the levels. It was proposed to exempt the persons who had been engaged in defacing the chapel at Sandtoft from the act of indemnity. Informations of treason and murder were laid before parliament, and orders issued to the justices of the king's bench to try the accused, and to the sheriffs to keep the peace.

About the year 1650, Nathaniel Reading, esq. visited these Levels; he was appointed to collect the arrears of rent granted by the king to the duchess dowager of Buckingham, (relict of Villiers, who was stabbed at Portsmouth by Felton) in trust for the younger Villiers, the second duke. Being an enterprising man, and one who had his fortune to make, he saw in these affairs a means by which he might benefit his country and himself. He accordingly, in 1655, agreed with Sir Anthony Ingram and other participants, to keep down the insurgents, for a salary of £200 a year.

In a memorial, which in the latter part of his life he presented to the court of sewers, he says, " He obtained several writs of assistance, and orders of the house of lords, and deputations from the sheriffs of the three counties, provided horses, and arms, and necessities, with twenty hired men, with twenty pounds a year each, and their diet, with a chirurgeon in ordinary; and upon occasions he hired many more; and after thirty-two set battles, wherein several of his men were killed, divers others wounded, and many lamed, and very many actions and hundreds of indictments against him and his assistants, and several years spent under inexpressible hazards and difficulties; besides loss of his practice, and damage to his wife and children, never to be repaired, he subdued these monsters to obedience, and quieted the crown and participants in their said allotments, repaired the church, settled another minister, restored the congregation, and thereby made

the said levels and tracts adjacent quiet, safe, and flourishing."

In 1679 Reading was retained counsel by the popish lords, and was accused of unfair tampering with the witnesses for the crown; but the Levels were the principal scene of his proceedings. He built a house at Sandtoft, in which he usually resided; against this house the efforts of the rioters were often directed. His corn and fences were at one time destroyed by a mob; many of the parties being in disguise, headed by the wife of Robert Popplewell. She and other rioters were indicted at the Lent assizes, for the county of Lincoln, 1694, and bills were found against them, Robert Popplewell applied to colonel Whichcroft and colonel Pownall, to intercede with Mr. Reading; and on the award of these two gentlemen, Robert Popplewell paid a fine to Mr. Reading of £600, in order to save his wife and some others of his friends. But Reading having accepted a lease of lands, in the manor of Epworth, for six years, in lieu of £3000, stated to be due to him from the participants, raised thereby a more vindictive feeling against himself in the hearts of the commoners than ever.

In 1696 the whole family were on the verge of destruction, the isle men, having laid waste his lands and destroyed the houses of his tenants, and in the dead of the night attacked his own. Their intention was to fire it, and burn all who were within. One of the sons, who was in the house at the time, and used to speak of the circumstance, dwelt par-

ticularly on the consternation and despair of the inmates when making their way to the doors, they found that the locks were filled with clay. The iron staunchions of the windows had been made unusually strong and firm, as a protection against assailants from without and they now proved equally powerful to resist the efforts of the people within. But at last colonel Reading himself, who used to describe the horror of that night, succeeded in wrenching out one of the bars, and conveyed his aged parents through the opening, just at a moment when the burning rafters of the building were ready to fall upon their heads. For some time afterwards, the people continued to commit fresh atrocities being disguised and armed they destroyed a number of houses and farm buildings, cut down fruit and other trees, burnt the fences, and turned their cattle into the corn. Some of the rioters were put in prison, others outlawed, two of the principal ringleaders, Peel and Spark absconded, and were never heard of after.

Colonel Robert Reading was the son of Nathaniel and Arabella Churchill Reading, aunt to our British hero John Duke of Malborough, and sister to Sir John Winstan Churchill. Robert was a lieutenant colonel in Clayton's regiment, and behaved very well in his military capacity at the battle of Dumblaine, in Scotland, against the Pretender's forces, in the year 1715, and as commander in chief at the fight of Glenshiel, the year following, where he took 500 Spaniards prisoners. He also

took the Pretender's plate, which he found walled up in a cellar at Scone.

Many of the settlers on the levels were not participants, but became tenants to them. Of these it is possible to collect a pretty complete list from the register of the chapel of Sandtoft, which was carefully kept from 1641 to 1681, and is still in existence, or lately was so. It was in the French language. The following names occur in it.

Isaac Beharelle	Anthony Massingarbe
David Letalle	Charles Arebault
Peter Tyssen	Anthony Merquelier
Abraham Beharelle	Abrian Vanhouq
Andrew Clebaux	Isaac Veniy
Matthias Priem	Christian Fontaine
Isaac des Biens	Matthew Brugne
Noah Matts	Josias Harlay
John Beharelle	Isaac Clais
Matthew Porree	Charles Priam
Hosea Tafin	Abraham Desquier
Custaw Legrand	William Prime
John de Lannois	Christian Samaque
James Flahau	Thomas Benitland
Isaac Amory	Isaac Haucar
James Vienin	Robert Taffin
Anthony Dubois	Joel Delepiere
Rowland Dubois	Isaac Vanplue
Charles Prime	John de Roubay
Isaac Vennin	Abraham Blique
Adrian Vanhounge	Daniel Douverley
Anthony le Roux	Jacob Liennar
Nicholas Tyssen	Joel Lespirre
Peter de la Gay	John Gougter
Charles Ranoy	John Swart
David le Conte	Martin Dubliq

Anthony Blancart	Isaac Delanoy
Anthony Scanfaire	James Harnew
Peter de la Hay	Oser Legrand
Noah Ager	James Dumoulin
Jesay Beamarm	Anthony Blancar
John Lelew	James Coquelar
James Leroy	Abraham Egard
Simon Acfair	David Morrillon
Francis Derik	James Rammery
Anthony Leflour	Peter Leliew
Peter Amory	Isenbar Chavatte
James Renard	Mark de Coup
Christian Smaque	Isaac Vanplue
Michael Lebrand	Jacob Tyssen
Peter Descamps	

The following were pastors of Sandtoft chapel.

Monsieur Berchett. He died in 1665, and was buried at Crowle. His wife, dame Catharine Lecog, was buried at Sandtoft, January 28, 1643.

Jean Deckerhuel was minister in 1659.

Monsieur de la Prix.

Samuel Lamber was here in 1664.

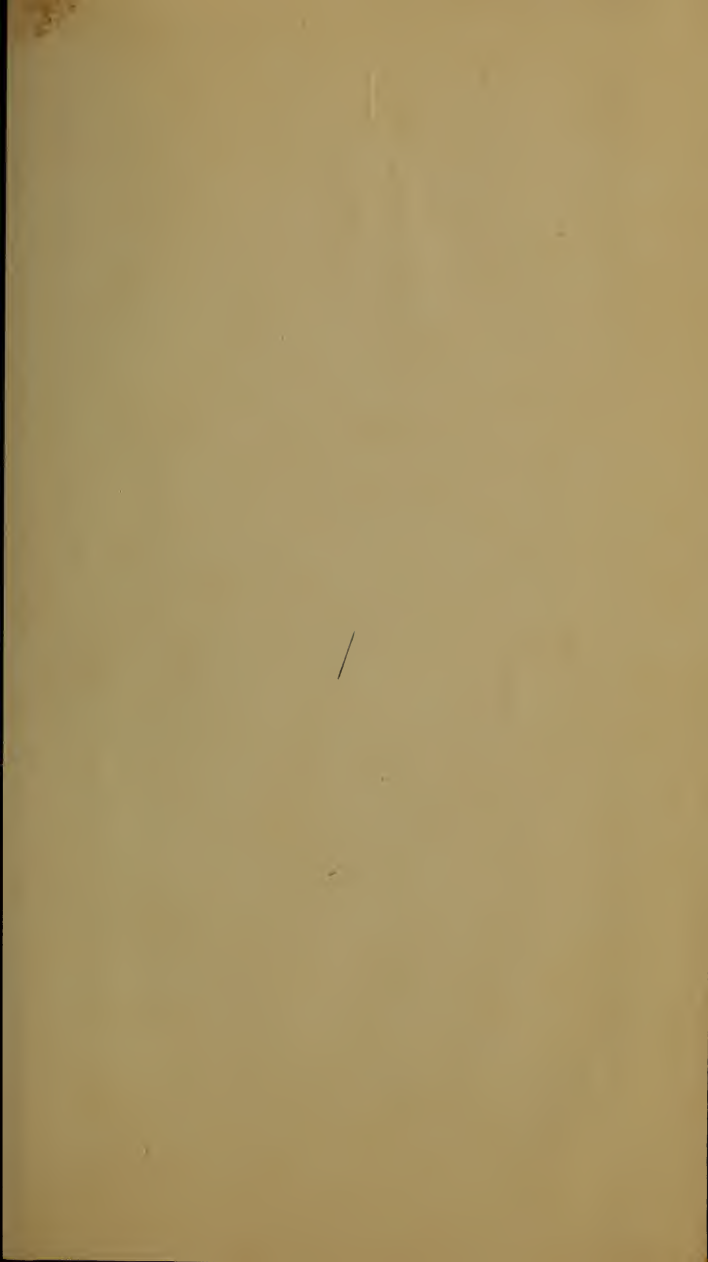
Jacques de la Porte was minister in 1676.

After him came M. Vaneley, who had no successor; and the chapel itself did not long survive the ministers. It was taken down, and cattle grazed upon its site. There may be those to whom the information may be acceptable, that it stood "on the north side of the bank coming from Bean (Bear's) Wood Green to New Idle Bank, nearly opposite Mr. Reading's last new house, which stands on the south side of the bank" This is from the manuscript of one who says, he can well remember part of the

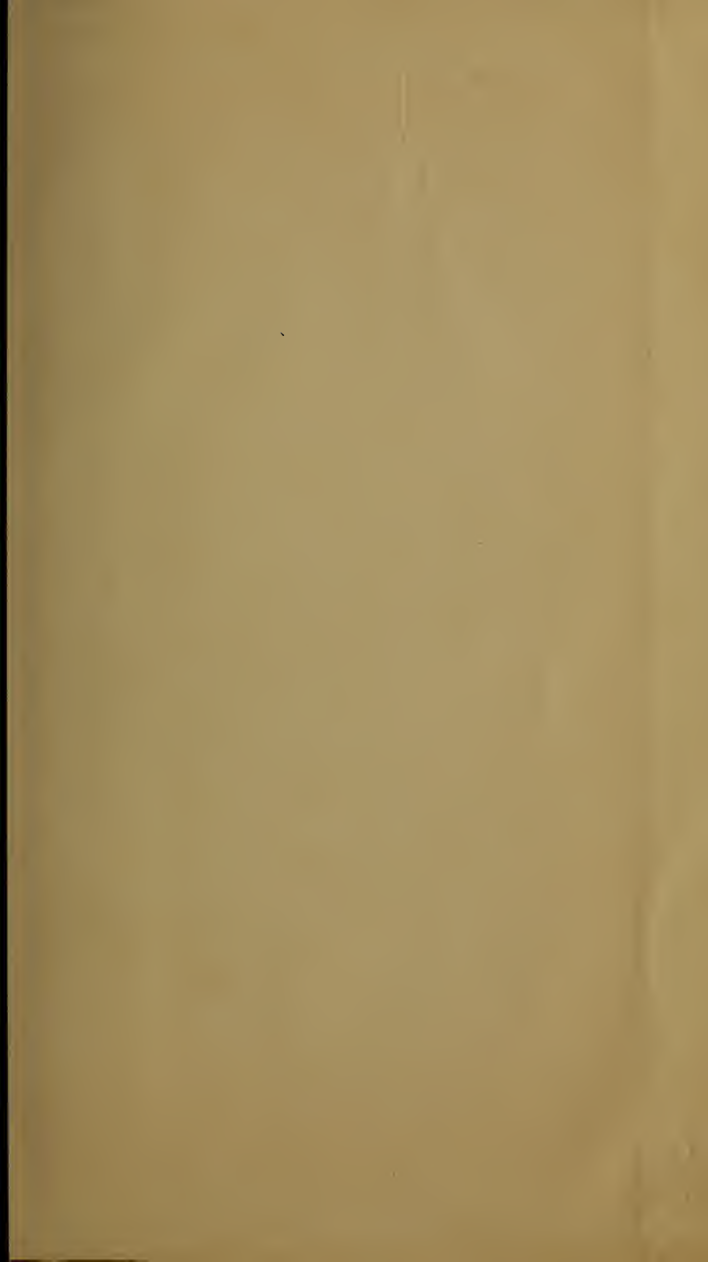
walls of the church standing, and was in it about the year 1686 or 1687.

Nathaniel Reading died at Belton, amongst his inveterate enemies, aged about 100 years. His sons Thomas Reading and lieutenant colonel Robert Reading, leased the isle lands of the participants at £420 per annum, and were at very great expense in inclosing and keeping the lands. About the year 1714, they had part of Clayton's regiment of foot encamped upon Ross, to defend the inclosures, but the act against riots being passed in the first year of the reign of George I. put a stop to further outrageous proceedings in this part of the country. And in 1719, a bill of the commoners against the participants being dismissed with costs, the spirit of opposition which had so long rankled in the breasts of the inhabitants, against the settlers and their improvements, was at length completely damped. From that time the Levels have been in a gradual state of improvement, and now produce as abundant crops as any similar district in Great Britain.

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